Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-94-232 *2 December 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Civilian Powers in Health, Taxation Handed to PA

TA0112163094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Civilian powers in the fields of health and taxation were transferred to the Palestinian Authority [PA] today at two ceremonies in Nabulus and Ramallah. Israel has thus completed its obligations in this matter as stipulated by the Oslo Agreement. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, who holds the PA's Treasury portfolio, was very optimistic this morning. After Israel turned over authority in the field of taxation to the PA today, al-Nashashibi said he was convinced that long queues of generous Palestinians would soon be crowding the tax collection bureaus. From tomorrow morning, al-Nashashibi declared positively without the slightest hesitation, the bureaus would open and many more Palestinians would finally start happily paying their taxes.

[Al-Nashashibi, in English] We are very optimistic in raising and collecting the necessary taxes from our generous people and I hope we will be able to meet all the necessary expenses for any government.

[Yokhpaz translates the above remarks and continues] The ceremony marking the transfer of taxation authority was held at the Interior Ministry office in Ramallah, with the participation of Muhammad al-Nashashibi and Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. Later this afternoon, at 1430 [1230 GMT], Israel handed over authority in the field of health to the Palestinians at a ceremony in Nabulus, thus fulfilling all its obligations to the Palestinian Authority in this matter. Brigadier General Gadi Zohar expressed relief.

[Zohar] We have made significant progress since signing the Oslo agreement. We are now completing another stage in the agreements between us and the Palestinians, and I hope that this serves as a positive indication for the future.

[Yokhpaz] Nevertheless, despite all the optimism among the Civil Administration staff, some officials have expressed concern that the transfer of the health system may also have an effect on the Israeli public. Both the Palestinians and Israel are keenly aware that contagious diseases may spread to Israel unless health services in the territories are maintained at a satisfactory level. [end recording]

Syrian Envoy Denies Cancellation of Meeting

MM0212114294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Damascus Denies Reports of Cancellation of Meeting Between Syrian and Israeli Officers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington—Syrian Ambassador to the United States Walid al-Mu'allim has stressed that Israel is not serious about achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. He also stressed that it is placing obstacles in the way of progress in the negotiations.

Answering a question about the Israeli media report yesterday about the cancellation of a meeting scheduled to be held between Syrian and Israeli officers to participate in talks between himself and Israeli Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich, Ambassador al-Mu'allim told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Washington yesterday that "that report is another indication that Israel is not serious about the negotiations and that it is placing obstacles in the way of progress in the talks."

He added: "Damascus announced through its foreign minister in Cairo its willingness to officially resume the talks between Syria and Israel. But Israel continues to reject that. And at the same time Rabin is saying that there are obstacles hampering progress on the Syrian-Israeli track."

He said: "We ask about the meaning of fabricating that media report days before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East next week. It makes us more suspicious that Rabin told Christopher of something parallel to the progress that happened after the Clinton-al-Asad summit in Damascus when President Clinton personally announced the occurrence of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, while the Americans could not announce something similar after President Clinton's meeting with Rabin in Washington." [sentence as published]

He said: "These are clear indications that Israel alone is responsible for obstructing the talks. It is also responsible for that media fabrication." Concluding, he said: "Syria is ready for a just and comprehensive peace that meets the objective demands of the peace process. And it is serious about making peace, because peace achieves security and stability in the region." [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official on Disputed Islands, Peace Process

MM0112163094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sadiqi: "Legal and Historical Seminar in Emirates Stresses Three Islands Are Arab"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ra's al-Khaymah—On the anniversary of the Iranian forces' occupation of the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—the Amiri Court's Studies and Documents Center in Ra's al-Khaymah organized a historical seminar on the three islands entitled "Islands of Peace."

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The seminar, which was opened by Shaykh Khalid Bin-Saqr al-Qasimi, heir apparent and deputy ruler of the Ra's al-Khaymah Emirate, was attended by a number of influential Arab intellectuals in addition to Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran and a representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council secretariat.

The seminar, which will last two days, is aimed at throwing light on the historical dimensions of the islands issue, focusing on the UAE's peace efforts to resolve the issue peacefully through direct negotiations or international arbitration, that is within the framework of relations of good-neighborliness and Muslim brotherhood. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Khalid said: We continue to demand that our neighbor, Iran, restore the rights to their owners and end the Iranian occupation of the islands. We adhere to the values of good-neighborliness and the ties of Muslim brotherhood. When attempts to hold bilateral negotiations reached an impasse, the head of state made an initiative, calling for referring the issue to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] to have its say and judge fairly and justly. We are supported by fraternal Arab states and world states, first and foremost the major states: Britain, the United States, France, Russia, and China.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran delivered a speech on behalf of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in which he said that Iran's occupation of the three Arab islands in 1971, in which it used military force against a neighboring state, reflected the arrogance of power and its tyranny, and was helped by foreign support for the shah for a role assigned to him at the time. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid said: "The UAE decision to refer the issue to the ICJ confirms the fraternal state's confidence in the justice of its cause and soundness of its position." He added: This important issue concerns pan-Arab security, and it is one example of what could happen to us as a nation and the threats we could face as a result of our disunion and fragmentation. Coveters everywhere and in all times do not respect the sanctity of neighborhood, nor do they respect any law. In fact they are guided by their inclinations whenever they sense any weakness or disunion.

The Arab League assistant secretary general said: Perhaps the most serious and tragic example is the Arab-Israeli conflict issue, since Israel continues to build its logic and policy on fragmenting the Arab position in the hope of evading international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and in the hope of evading withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

He said: Israel must radically reconsider its way of thinking, its logic, and its policy. It must also realize full well that no peace can be establish in the Middle East unless it implements Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and Resolution 425 concerning withdrawal from Lebanese territory, or unless it complies with the international resolutions concerning the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and accepts the call for declaring the Middle East a zone free from all mass-destruction weapons.

He added: Our Arab states want peace and are working to achieve it. But they cannot abandon any rights on the pretext of peace, especially rights relating to the homeland, sovereignty, and dignity. He said: The justice of our cause is not sufficient to recover our rights. We believe it is important to rebuild a strong Arab solidarity—solidarity benefiting from past mistakes and based on the charter of honor and adherence to the constants, pledges, and resolutions.

League Regrets Extension of Sanctions Against Libya

NC0112161094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League has expressed regret of the Security Council's decision to extend the sanctions imposed on Libya for another four months despite the fact that Libya has done all it can to provide a fair trial for the two Libyan defendants in the Lockerbie crisis.

The Arab League secretary general's press spokesman expressed hopes that the Security Council will consider again the League's proposal to try the defendants in The Hague before Scottish judges and in accordance with Scotland's laws.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Chairman of EU's PLO Committee

BR0112134994 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 1 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Sergio Sergi: "Help Me and I Will Defeat Fundamentalists"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels—[passage omitted] As he came down the stairs into the room 'Arafat wore his customary winning smile. His brown jacket was buttoned, but a bulge revealed the pistol underneath. He strode quickly toward his host—on this occasion, Luigi Colajanni, head of the PDS [Democratic Party of the Left] delegation in Brussels, newly elected chairman of the European Parliament delegation for relations with the PLO and the administration of the territories. We were able to attend their conversation, which was preceded by a warm embrace. Actually, it was 'Arafat who grasped Colajanni by the shoulders, gave him a big hug, and kissed him three times. Then he gave him a shake. He was pleased to learn, as soon as he sat down, that an old friend of his has been appointed to represent the European Union's parliamentary assembly in all meetings with the PLO. A friend and an Italian, who

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reminded him: "We met in Tunis after that tragic attack. We met after midnight..." 'Arafat nodded, and his thoughts turned to the time when one of his most trusted men died.

'Arafat revealed just how tired he was as he sank back into an easy chair. He seemed to have aged many years. And he was sad—not defeated, but aware of the serious difficulties that he is experiencing. How could he pretend otherwise? He is angry with Israel, which has done its utmost to delay the implementation of the peace agreement. He said so here to Minister Shim'on Peres, who was also in Brussels for discuss with Palestinian leaders plans for the elections and the request for prompt financial help.

Israel's Delays

'Arafat: "We need to establish the democratic process in the territories. It is very important for us—decisive. But Israel is delaying matters, always delaying. And it refuses to leave with all its troops, as envisaged by the agreement."

Colajanni: "why is this happening, and what can the international institutions do?

'Arafat replied almost as though reciting a lullaby: "They proffer excuses, excuses, and still more excuses, excuses... We think that international pressure could cause them to reflect." 'Arafat was emphatic, though his voice was level, almost faint, without irritation. He said: "The elections must be held: It is stated in the agreement. And Israel is wasting time. They should have been held in July, and it is already the end of the year." The Palestinian leader was worried, pensive. 'Arafat continued. He grasped Colajanni's arm and repeated twice: "Elections; elections above all. This is the most important thing for us."

Colajanni: "What can we do, from Europe?"

'Arafat: "Heavier pressure must be brought to bear on the Israelis because, as you can see, they are always trying to delay, to delay. But elections mean greater stability for the entire inhabited area of the West Bank. They should have left 13 July. That is stated in the peace agreement... And greater stability means more investments too." In Brussels he secured the first money, but not as much as was promised. The World Bank granted $58 million in credits to the Palestinian administrative authorities for reconstruction. But it is not enough. Some $700 was promised for 1994, but only $240 has been received. Denmark has allocated $18 million, while Switzerland has pledged $10 million.

The Palestinian leader spoke about his opponents. He said: "Elections also mean speaking clearly to the most fanatical groups, which claim to be Palestine's representatives. Well, let there be an election, but you will be one part of the Palestinians. This is the point." He was anxious, above all else at this time, to urge the implementation of the funding pledges made by the so-called "donor" countries. "These procedures must be accelerated." Colajanni proposed an initiative to seek faster routes to bring international aid to Gaza and Jericho. 'Arafat replied: "Right, I hope this happens. Because we are paying the price of peace more than anyone else. It is so. We are the victims, and the international community bears moral and political responsibilities. Yes, we are the victims." He cited figures: "We have had thousands of people killed, and 5,000 imprisoned. And among these there were many women and sick people. It is a terrible situation." 'Arafat extended an invitation to visit Palestine, Gaza, in order to experience his country's situation at first hand. Colajanni accepted, as head of the parliamentary delegation. "We will do so at the beginning of next year." 'Arafat: "We will expect you. There are no problems on our side. That is fine." In the meantime the European Parliament could develop a whole range of initiatives, especially in connection with donations from Community institutions.

Difficulties of Peace

Yasir 'Arafat talked again about the difficulties of the peace process, of the full implementation of the agreements. He recalled all the meetings he has had in recent weeks with Rabin—Madrid, Paris, Cairo. And the other day in Brussels with Peres. He repeated more than once that there must be an "accurate and honest implementation of the agreement" on Israel's part. Then conversation turned to the conference on the Mediterranean, the European Union initiative that will take place in the second half of 1995, when the duty chairmanship passes to Spain. What is the Palestinians' opinion in this regard? Colajanni asked. Could it help them, could it boost the peace process in the Middle East area? "I hope so," came the immediate reply. But there is a precondition that the Palestinian leader was keen to stress: "My opinion is that this meeting will be much more fruitful if it takes place after the involvement of Syria and Libya in the peace process." Is there a possibility that Damascus will make a specific commitment? "We must urge them to do so." So the PLO believes that a conference would be even more useful if all the countries of the area are involved.

Finally, thoughts turned back to the conflicts in Gaza. How does Yasir 'Arafat feel when Palestinians fight other Palestinians? He rested his elbows on the arms of the chair and said: "Those are not Palestinians. They are terrorists. It is a terrorist movement. They have killed people in mosques, movie theaters, and banks. The headquarters of our security forces has been attacked no less than six times." 'Arafat condemned that which displayed all the characteristics of a "coup d'etat" on the part of fundamentalist groups financed by the Iranians. But he also hopes that no other Arab state supports the fanaticism, perhaps by means of indirect funding that nevertheless reaches the terrorists' coffers. Colajanni asked whether it is true that the unrepentant Abu-Nidal actually has a mission in Kuwait City. 'Arafat was unable to say, but he was keen to stress that the support for

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fanaticism is still successful. But the hope is that the situation can change soon. "We hope in the new Year," the PLO chairman said. Then he took his host by the hand and accompanied him to the door. "Bene," [good] he said in Italian, and took his leave with a vigorous handshake.

'Arafat Receives Yeltsin Cable on International Day

JN0112182694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has received the following cable from Russian President Boris Yeltsin:

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PNA: I am pleased to send you and all the Palestinians my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On this occasion, we feel a special relief because the current year has been distinguished by producing the important Arab-Israeli settlement of the central issue of the Palestine question.

Israel and the PLO have signed historic agreements under the auspices and care of Russia and the United States. These agreements will lay the groundwork for peaceful development without any confrontation in the region. Launching the PNA is, in fact, a beginning of the achievement of the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Russia will increase its support for the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East as soon as possible. I wish the Palestinian people every progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin

[Dated] 29 November, 1994

'Arafat, al-Zahhar Agree on Forming Committee

TA0212082494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Earlier today, Yasir 'Arafat and Mahmud al-Zahhar, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, decided that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas will set up a joint committee to deal with disputes between them.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the meeting between the two was mediated by Ahmad al-Tibi and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel. The joint committee will be made up of three representatives from Hamas, three from Fatah, and two Israeli Arab observers, Dr. al-Tibi and Shaykh Darwish.

Quray' 'Not Satisfied' With Brussels Agreement

JN0112141494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Interview with PA Minister of Economy Ahmad Quray' by economic affairs correspondent Rajih Qaddur, on 1 December; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] Minister of Economy Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', good evening.

[Quray'] Good evening.

[Qaddur] Mr. Minister. Does the money, which will be transferred according to an agreement in Brussels, meet the PA's [Palestinian Authority] needs? Was this what you expected to receive?

[Quray'] In fact, when I took part in this conference attended by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir Arafat], head of the National Authority, as well as a huge number of participants, I did not expect support to deal only with the deficit in the Palestinian economy. I also did not expect this support to ignore the issue of development programs required for the occupied Palestinian territories.

During this meeting, I was expecting participants to deal with the lack of support for development and social projects, repairs to roads, water and electricity networks.

This is what I expected from such a meeting, which witnessed the attendance of a large number of participants, including the president of the National Authority and Israel's prime minister, and was held in the capital of the European Union. Therefore, my expectations were greater than this. In fact, I am not satisfied with the results and the way issues were handled.

[Qaddur] Mr. Abu-'Ala'. It appears there are internal issues within the Authority as well as external issues that obstruct the transfer of money. As you know, talks dealt with transferring more than $700 million by the end of this year. What has been transferred so far is a very small amount.

[Quray'] No. In fact, more than that has been transferred. However, the channels through which this aid has been distributed did not show the Palestinian citizen that there has been support. For example, large sums of money were transferred through the United Nations and its organizations—the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] and the United Nations Development Program. It appears that the Palestinian citizen who, since 1948, has been used to receiving aid through UNRWA did not realize that aid offered by the donor countries through these UN organizations was aid for the peace process. This is where there was confusion.

This is on the one hand. On the other hand, bilateral agreements were concluded with the Authority. There were also agreements concluded with the World Bank on the issue of the budget and the budget deficit. Therefore,

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the overall amounts which came through various channels into the Palestinian territories or are due before the end of this year amount to over $400 million.

[Qaddur] Mr. Ahmad Quray', in light of what has happened, how do you see the future and what should be the PA's course of action?

[Quray'] In fact, first and foremost, the PA should define a particular channel that will take care of contacts, follow ups, and coordination of this aid. Otherwise, I am not at all optimistic. Also, the PA should coordinate with all the Palestinian administrations which deal with the support process. A Palestinian official cannot talk about something he knows nothing about. I believe that following our experience, it is necessary to discuss this issue frankly and objectively. In light of these wasted opportunities—and I am afraid that all opportunities will be wasted—wasting this Palestinian effort is no longer acceptable.

[Qaddur] Minister Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala'. Thank you very much.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

Donor Countries Grant Aid to Palestinians

Sha'th Comments

BR0112150094 Brussels LE SOIR in French 1 Dec 94 p 10

[Report Signed "B.L.": "Palestinians Thrown A Lifeline"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prediction of Caio Koch-Weser, vice president of the World Bank, has been proved right. Taking into account the sums already paid, the Palestinians will finally be able to obtain approximately $200 million to finance their first year of autonomy—out of a promised $700 million. The meeting of the ad hoc liaison committee for aid to the Palestinians which was held on Tuesday (with of Yasir 'Arafat attending) and Wednesday resulted in emergency aid of $125 million, $102 million of which has already been raised. This money must meet the budgetary deficit for October to March 1995. The president of the Brussels session this week, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland, also announced that a further $23 million would be found over the next few weeks to be allocated to the creation of thousands of jobs in infrastructure and road-building projects, and floriculture.

Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian Authority's chief negotiator and responsible for foreign aid, estimates that this program will create 5,000 jobs in the Gaza Strip in the short term, and 15,000 in the longer term.

It was also decided at the committee's meeting, which was attended by the principal donor countries, the UN, the World Bank, and the IMF, to set up a local aid coordination committee to meet in Gaza on a monthly basis. The European Union is to be the first donor as it will be providing $48 million of the $125 million approved in Brussels over the past few days.

"Our general feelings are positive," Nabil Sha'th told us yesterday evening. "There is now a certain international recognition of the urgency of the situation, given the dangers threatening the peace process itself at the present time. The aid, which will now be arrive quicker and better coordinated, will be directed at investment sectors which help create jobs."

On Tuesday, Yasir 'Arafat was able to speak to many interlocutors on this question. All of them, from the European "Troika" to the Belgian authorities, Jacques Delors included, are resolved to respond quickly, Mr. Sha'th believes.

He also believes that "the Israelis themselves are seeking to be more positive." Uri Savir, the general director of Israeli foreign affairs, who led his country's delegation at the financial meeting, also indicated that "Israel is ready to help set up a fiscal system" in the autonomous territories. The Europeans, under pressure from the Palestinians, particularly stressed the need for their Israeli interlocutors to stop sealing off the territories—whether autonomous or occupied—which is strangling an already very weak Palestinian economy.

As a direct result of the Brussels decisions, Israel must today transfer powers to the West Bank in the areas of health care (which employs 2,000 people) and taxes.

PA's al-Agha on Grant

NC0212083894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with PA Housing Minister Zakariya al-Agha, in the Gaza Strip, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Miliji] Dr. Zakariya, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] How much could this grant contribute toward solving the problems the Palestinian Authority [PA] is suffering in the economic and other fields?

[Al-Agha] Although this grant is a positive sign, breaking the circle of emptiness in which no funding was forthcoming from the donor countries to the Palestinian Authority, it is, nevertheless, a small part of the funds necessary for developing the situation in the Gaza Strip, starting with the infrastructure, improving economic conditions, and activating economic development.

I wish to remind listeners here that the PA was supposed to receive the sum of $700 million by the end of 1994. Unfortunately, the PA has received no more than $100 million. We hope this trend of releasing the funds the PA

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was promised after signing the Oslo Agreement in Washington will continue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, in addition to the grant approved for you in Brussels by the donor countries, there is a loan from the World Bank and a loan from the IMF. Is this not so?

[Al-Agha] Yes, and we hope the donor countries, as I said earlier, will speed up their transfer of funds. Actually, bureaucracy, which up to now ... [pauses] the mechanism for disbursement or the mechanism for executing pledges has been very difficult and fruitless. It is illogical that during the past six months no funds have been transferred. We have prepared many projects for implementation. There is a balance of funding that the PA needs. But it seems that the measures and mechanism for transferring funds are bureaucratic and need to be activated. I believe this was discussed in Brussels. We hope the mechanism will become easier and the donor countries will speed up granting their funds.

[Al-Miliji] You raised the issue of the mechanism for disbursing these funds and noted that this subject was raised during the Brussels meeting. Have you not agreed over particular steps to get these funds to you?

[Al-Agha] We agreed on some steps that we hope will make the current mechanism easier and will make it more flexible when it comes to coping with these funds and the PA.

[Al-Miliji] Let us move to another topic—the Ramallah meeting between you and the Israelis regarding the transfer to you of the health, social services, and taxes departments. What happened during this meeting?

[Al-Agha] First, as regards the social services and tourism departments, they were handed over in the middle of the month. What are left now are the powers of health and taxation. The meeting was good and we hope the talks will be finalized as soon as possible. Of course, there is a transitional period, particularly with regard to taxation powers. We have relied on Israeli experience in this field. But I believe the PA now has numerous powers, around six or seven. These are health, education, tourism, social services, youth and sports, culture, and taxes.

[Al-Miliji] These are the civilian powers in the West Bank. Are there any powers still in the hands of the Israeli authorities?

[Al-Agha] Of course. The total number of areas of power is around 30 or more. We have received only some of these powers or what is called the early empowerment of some responsibilities or powers. The remaining powers, according to the agreement, will be transferred after elections. Before the elections there will be Israeli redeployment from the villages and towns to areas outside them. The Palestinian police will deploy in these areas, elections will take place, and the legislative council will be elected and given all the powers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This way, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will have equal powers.

[Al-Miliji] Dear listeners, at the end of this dialogue, we would like to thank Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, minister of housing in the PA.

[Al-Agha] Thank you.

Fatah Members Object to Involvement in PA 'Battles'

JN0212103694 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 28 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Four Fatah Central Committee members have objected to 'Arafat's move to involve the Fatah Movement in the battles of the Palestinian Authority, in which Fatah has no interest at all.

The four leaders met in Tunis on Wednesday [23 November]. They said Fatah has no interest in the conflicts between the authority and the Palestinian police on the one hand and the opposition forces in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movements on the other.

The leaders—Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-Mahir [Muhammad] Ghunaym, Sakhr Habash, and Muhammad Jihad—said 'Arafat does not have the right to determine Fatah's decisions without referring to the Central Committee.

Radio Lauds Beilin Statements on Settlement

JN0112204294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, voices from within the Israeli Government chart the course for emerging from the dilemma on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on redeployment and elections. Following statements by Yosi Sarid, Israeli minister of environmental protection, on the need to dismantle several settlements within the framework of the proposed redeployment of the Israeli forces, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's statements have come to further emphasize the roots of the dilemma from which the negotiations suffer. This dilemma consists of dividing the solution into very long stages.

As a result of the current circumstances, the Palestinian negotiator was forced to accept a two-stage solution. Immediately after this, it became evident that each of these stages was meant to be divided into more stages to conform to the wishes of the Israeli Government.

The facts on the ground confirm to every logical man, rather than those who hold a very narrow view of security, that the division into stages will undermine the solution and the settlement. It has become evident now that it is impossible to postpone the issue of settlements

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to the next stage. In Gaza and the West Bank, it constitutes a volatile issue that could easily erupt and that cannot be easily contained. That's why many Israeli officials have started to become convinced that this issue should be immediately listed on the agenda. From this premise, the interconnection between the two stages that is dictated by the realities on the ground has convinced Beilin of the need to move immediately to the negotiations on the final stage as the Palestinian negotiator had so wished from the very beginning. We hope that more and more people will become convinced of this fact, especially the members of the Israeli government, as soon as possible. Time is money and the settlement operation is wasting this time in front of our own eyes. Wasting this precious time in search of plans that will either permit or prevent the redeployment and the adoption of a comprehensive policy on the basis of the security needs of specific settlements which the Israeli Government had originally viewed as unnecessary could be catastrophic. This is because the Labor Party is not guaranteed to win the next elections. If it fails in the elections without first completing the bases of a solution with the Palestinian people, then the Likud will come to topple everything. Likud Leader Benyamin Netanyahu will be grateful to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for leaving him everything as they are so that he may return matters to square one.

Beilin has diagnosed the illness. There is no time left for the Labor Government. It should either complete the [political] settlement or become lost in the argument concerning the security of this or that settlement in Hebron, or Nabulus.

The Palestinian negotiator too has no time to waste. Thus, the Palestinian negotiator also has to convince his people that he has accomplished something and that he has introduced changes to the life of this people in terms of security, stability, self-determination, and the removal of occupation.

Time is at a premium now and procrastination and exaggerated lamentations could lead to explosion and destruction.

We have suffered much from the exaggerated lamentations by the Israeli government. With these lamentations, it succeeded in imposing unwanted things on the Palestinian side. However, it has been proven that these lamentations are dangerous and out of place. These lamentations have kept the Netzarim settlement where it is and have thus turned it into a problem. Lamentations also have resulted in postponing the discussion of the settlements issue to the final stage. Their postponement has turned into a problem that obstructs the solution. The exaggerated lamentations have also led to procrastination to force the Palestinian side to give in. Procrastination leads to the loss of time and this threatens to undermine the peace process with the Palestinians.

Time passes quickly, and time is precious. This is the crux of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's statements. Will the Israeli Government heed his advice?

'Palestine' Broadcast Calls Hebron Operation 'Daring'

JN2811191994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: Yesterday, the Palestinian Arab resistance carried out a daring, effective operation against Israeli terrorists in the Hebron area, in the occupied Palestinian Arab territory. This operation was carried out near the Bet Hagay settlement in the Hebron area. This Palestinian fedayeen operation cannot be measured only by the Israeli human losses, such as the killing of Rabbi 'Amiram 'Olam. There is no doubt that this rabbi is one of the rabbis of disgrace who decide that the good or accepted Arab is the killed one. Those rabbis fill killers like Baruch Goldstein with racism, crime, and terrorism. In other words, this rabbi is a copy of the students of Talmudic schools, the criminal prisoners who committed their crimes against the Israelis themselves and were released for killing the Arabs, deceiving them, and poisoning their life. This killed rabbi could have also been a copy of the killed Me'ir Kahana or Rabbi Levinger, whose terrorist crimes will certainly lead him to the fate of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana.

Therefore, the human losses of Israel are not the only thing that decides the size of this Palestinian fedayeen operation against the settlement of Bet Hagay in the city of Hebron, the brave Palestinian Arab city. There are other dimensions that show the effectiveness and the seriousness of this fedayeen operation. The following are some of these dimensions:

First, this Palestinian fedayeen operation ushers in the 10th month since the massacre of the blessed Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Hebron on 25 February. This means that taking revenge for our righteous martyrs in this massacre is continuous until the souls of the righteous martyrs, who were martyred while performing their prayers in the Ibrahimi Mosque, are satisfied.

Second, this valiant Palestinian fedayeen operation comes about in the aftermath of the Israeli plot to divide the holy Ibrahimi Mosque of Hebron; that is, to Judaize it. Since the early days of Islam and until doomsday, this mosque will remain a holy shrine for Muslims, although they might allow all faithful people to visit it to seek the blessings of Abraham and his sons, may God's peace be upon them. This has remained the case over the past 15 centuries.

The wrongful and transient existence of Israeli occupation in the city will not change this fact in the least, particularly since the entire world community holds in

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disregard and contempt any party that changes the religious features of existing temples in the 20th century. Such conduct was the hallmark of invaders in ancient and medieval times.

Third, this Palestinian fedayeen operation was carried out near the settlement of Bet Hagay in Hebron because the demagoguery of Israeli settlement activities, which are in full swing in Hebron thanks to the protection provided by Israeli colonialist troops, is destroying the livelihood of the Arab population of Hebron, the sole legitimate owners of the land. Moreover, in the course of their terrorist acts, Israeli settler mobs there have shouted death to Arabs. These mobs will not escape just punishment, regardless of whether they live in the settlement of Bet Hagay or Kiryat Arba'.

Fourth, Israeli invaders have relished opening fire at Palestinian Arabs from motorcycles and speedy cars. Once they commit their treacherous terrorist crimes, they flee. But yesterday, the valiant Palestinian Arab fedayeen caused Israel to have a taste of its own poison in the hope that it may understand that the Palestinian Arabs will strike back to avenge each and every Israeli crime.

These considerations, among others, demonstrate the enormous significance of the Palestinian fedayeen operation carried out in the settlement of Bet Hagay, which was planted in the heart of Hebron, regardless of the fact that this operation only caused the death of an Israeli national.

Israel's efforts to underrate its losses in human lives, which is a familiar Israeli practice, have failed to undermine the significance of this valiant Palestinian fedayeen operation in the least. As a matter of fact, Israel will fail to undermine the significance of this Palestinian fedayeen operation even if it denies all its human losses.

Jimmy Carter Invited To Supervise Elections

JN0212091394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the National Authority [NA], has extended an official invitation to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to personally contribute to supervising the upcoming legislative elections.

NA Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat conveyed the invitation during his current visit to Washington.

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Algeria

Assassination of 5 People in Boufarik Reported

LD0112205794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yessaad Ahmed, 56 years old, our colleague and journalist in television; Akel Yasser, 37 years old, a former journalist at the EL MASSA daily newspaper and a member of the advertising house Hiuarkoum, were among the five victims who were murdered by the hands of terrorism in Boufarik.

With indescribable brutality, the terrorists mutilated the victims. They were not satisfied with this only; they burned down a technological institute and destroyed a petrol filling station.

[Correspondent] In the Boufarik district in Blida Province, at 1130 yesterday [2230 GMT], an unknown number of terrorists mounted an assault on one of the quarters in the center of Boufarik.

According to security sources, the group surrounded the quarter and then brought five persons out of their homes and shot them. Not satisfied, they used bladed weapons to cut off their heads and throw them onto the road.

The victims are: Yessaad Ahmed, 56 years old, a journalist in television; Akel Yasser, nicknamed Nasreddine, 37 years old, a journalist who worked previously at the daily newspaper EL MASSA and then became a member of the advertising house Hiuarkoum; Mokhtari Abdelkrim, 45 years old, deputy chief of the Executive Commission in Boufarik. Among the victims of this massacre, there were two other citizens.

On the same night, the terrorist group was not satisfied with committing this abominable crime, they set fire to the technological institute in the town and also destroyed a privately owned petrol filling station.

FIS Spokesman Hails Results of Rome Opposition Forum

MM0212101294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p p 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Anouar Haddam Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Rome Seminar Brought Opposition Parties Closer to One Another and Emphasized Peaceful Option in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Anouar Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission abroad, has expressed great satisfaction with the results of the seminar held in Rome 21-22 November.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Washington yesterday he said: "The seminar had several very important dimensions, since it showed that the issue in Algeria is not between the FIS and the regime, but a problem with the military establishment."

He added: At the Algerian level, the seminar enabled us to have free discussions with the main elected parties. And the discussions removed a lot of the dust and the matters through which the regime had tried to split the opposition.

He said: The seminar's most important result was the gist of the main statements, namely that the solution must be political, the elections must be held, and the military establishment must be under the political authority's control. This is the solution, in order to extricate the country from the crisis and begin the social and economic development process.

He added: "Among what the participants agreed upon—and 95 percent of them were representatives elected by the people—is to hold a meeting soon to agree on the establishment of a channel for constant contacts with the West in order to explain the situation, offer a precise assessment of the crisis and the way out of it, and reduce French support for the military."

He said that the FIS has begun its contacts with U.S. Administration officials to explain the results of the seminar through the Parliamentary Mission's adviser who participated in the seminar.

On the regime's willingness to hold a seminar in Algeria, Haddam said, "some people say that that seminar will be held in France. And there is information to the effect that the eradicationists are proposing the nomination of [former Prime Minister] Redha Malek for the presidency. But the important thing is that the seminar which it is said they plan to hold and the campaign the regime launched against the Rome seminar confirm the failure of attempts to split the opposition."

He added: "The regime accused us of holding the Rome seminar because we are internationalizing the crisis. In fact by closing the doors of dialogue the regime is the one internationalizing the crisis. We went to the Rome seminar to prepare an atmosphere for serious negotiations which we would like to be held in Algeria. If the conditions we had demanded were met, we would have held them in Algeria."

He said that the seminar led to an agreement to hold a meeting soon.

He also said: The Rome seminar showed that religion can be a uniting factor, since a Catholic organization invited the "Front" to this meeting—which will in the future contribute to establishing good and fruitful relations between the Algerian Islamic state and Western states.

On the state of exception [hal al-istithna'] [higher degree of state of emergency] which the regime reportedly may announce, Haddam said: We are already in an unconstitutional exceptional state since the military illegally seized the institutions.

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Haddam stressed that a solution cannot be achieved through escalation, as some of the regime's elements believe. It can only be achieved through a just political solution.

Haddam said: If the military regime seizes power directly and without civilian intervention, that could facilitate isolating the putschists internationally.

He reemphasized that the solution must be secured through serious negotiations. Because Algeria is for all Algerians. No one can impose a model or a system on the Algerians by force.

On contacts with the U.S. Administration he said: The Americans are acquainted with our main lines. They are aware of, appreciate, and respect our independent decisionmaking. And they agree that military establishments should not interfere in political affairs. They also acknowledge that Algeria's unity should be safeguarded and that the military establishment's unity too should be safeguarded and kept away from the political struggle.

He said: The new U.S. ambassador to Algeria is more interested in the issue than his predecessor—which could contribute to securing a [suitable] atmosphere and could bolster the position of those in the military establishment who are in favor of a political solution. And they agree with us on working to extricate the country from the maelstrom of death and destruction.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns After Talks With Syrian President

NC0112174294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1704 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Damascus this afternoon following a visit of several hours to Syria.

President Mubarak held talks in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad that dealt with bilateral relations and ways to giving impetus to the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Mubarak Congratulates UAE on National Day

NC0212115994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described the relations of cooperation between Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as among the best shared by Arab countries. He said we feel comfortable about this cooperation with the UAE under the leadership of our big brother, Shaykh Zayid, who loves Egypt. The Egyptian people also love the UAE and Shaykh Zayid.

President Mubarak gave a speech on UAE television from Abu Dhabi today to congratulate his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the people of the UAE on behalf of the Egyptian people on the occasion of the UAE's 23rd national day.

In his speech President Mubarak expressed his sincere wish that Shaykh Zayid should enjoy good health and prosperity and wished the UAE people long life with continuous progress and success.

Agreement Reached With Iran on Settling Debts

NC0112161194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and Iran have reached agreement on settling Egypt's debts to Iran.

A responsible source in the Economic Ministry has stated that the agreement stipulates that Egypt's debts to Iran will be settled in return for $149 million to be used in building a number of sugar mills in Iran's Khuzestan Province. The Egyptian Sugar and Integral Industries Company will provide these mills with the necessary machinery and prepare the designs and supervise their implementation over a period of five years.

It is recalled that this agreement has been reached after two years of negotiations between representatives of the Egyptian economic and foreign trade ministries and the Central Bank and representatives from the Iranian Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Central Bank.

The agreement to settle the debts was signed in Tehran at the end of last week.

Paper Attacks Security Council's 'Double Standards'

NC0212072894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the policy of double standards of the Security Council toward several international issues, particularly Lockerbie and Bosnia-Herzegovina. It said the Council issued its recent resolution on imposing sanctions on Libya very swiftly and actively, although it has not yet been proven in a legal and final manner that the Libyan Government was involved in this issue in an indisputable way.

The newspaper added in its comment today, Friday, that the Security Council previously issued several resolutions imposing sanctions on Libya, while at the same time it was unable to impose any real sanctions against the rebellious group of Bosnian Serbs and the countries that open the doors of their military arsenals to them as wide as possible.

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The newspaper affirmed that all the measures the Security Council has taken in this regard were not supposed to be implemented—openly or secretly. Many of the big powers in the Council use every possible method to prevent any use of force to stop the Serbian aggression against Bosnia, something that has gone on for over three years.

In this regard, the newspaper pointed out the reluctant stance of the Security Council and its big powers regarding the Bosnia issue. The Council takes a blatantly biased stance, confirmed by the clear distinction it makes in dealing with two Arab countries, Libya and Iraq, but turns a blind eye to the blood shed daily by Muslims in Bosnia.

Rights Group Says Police Using Illegal Methods

NC0112211794 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 1 (AFP)—The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation Thursday [1 December] accused security forces of adopting illegal draconian measures against Moslem militants, including hostage-taking and liquidation.

In a report released to the press, the organisation said it suspected that some of the 27 Moslem militants shot dead by police in the past seven months in the al-Minya province, 225 kilometres (135 miles) south of Cairo, "were quite simply liquidated."

The rights group accused the authorities of pursuing a policy of "hostage-taking," saying relatives of wanted militants were jailed in the al-Minya region.

It said a 12-hour night curfew had been in force in al-Minya since October 31, and in the town of Mallawi in November police destroyed more than 150 shops whose owners were suspected of supporting the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group.

The rights group also condemned al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah for "killing policemen, tourists and writers as a way of putting pressure on the regime."

It said that in 1994 al-Jama'ah militants had carried out 57 attacks, killing 84 people, including 54 policemen, six Coptic Christians and four Western tourists.

More than 500 people have died since the militants launched their campaign in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secularist government of President Husni Mubarak and replacing it with an Islamic fundamentalist regime.

The unrest cost Egypt more than one billion dollars in 1993, the human rights organisation said.

The losses were due mainly to attacks on "economic and tourist sites and trains," the rights group said, predicting that losses would be "even greater this year."

"To stop the violence, the state should ensure the principles of democracy are respected, and eradicate the fanatical tendencies existing in the media and teaching programs."

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Saudi Arabia

'Source' on 'Incidents' on Border With Qatar

LD0112235894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2224 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 1 Dec—An authoritative source made a statement to SPA based on what the Qatari News Agency reported concerning what was discussed at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the State of Qatar yesterday, 30 November, and the reasons given by the interior minister in the State of Qatar, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, to the Qatari Council of Ministers—reasons which led to the absence of the State of Qatar from the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] interior ministers in Riyadh on 27-28 November on the pretext that several armed incidents had taken place along the border between the two states during the months of March and October and that the State of Qatar had requested an explanation about the matter from the Kingdom, but had not had any replies to its enquiries.

On the basis of the above, and in order to clarify the fact, the Interior Ministry of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom wishes to clarify the following:

First, The Saudi Kingdom's Foreign Ministry did not receive any communication from the authorities in the fraternal State of Qatar about the occurrence of the incidents along the border between them prior to receiving a memorandum from the Qatari Embassy in Riyadh, dated 12 November 1994, that is, the same day on which the under-secretaries of the GCC Interior Ministries met. At that meeting, the leader of the Qatari delegation made a statement in which he said the interior minister in the State of Qatar would not be taking part in the upcoming meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers until the State of Qatar received a reply to its memorandum, which the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Riyadh had presented.

Second, as soon as the concerned Saudi authorities had received the memorandum of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Riyadh—which related to one case only, and not five as the leader of the delegation of the State of Qatar at the meeting of the Interior Ministries' under-secretaries stated—the concerned Saudi authorities carried out investigations into the matter. These investigations showed that the incident to which the memorandum of the Embassy of the State of Qatar referred to had not happened; also the other cases to which the leader of the delegation of the State of Qatar to the meeting of the under-secretaries had referred to.

Third, the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent its response to its sister, the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar on 23 November—days before the Gulf Cooperation Council's interior ministers meeting.

The response stressed that what was mentioned in the Qatari Embassy's memorandum did not occur, and that it was out of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's concern to ensure the participation of his excellency. Qatar's interior minister, at the GCC's interior ministers meeting.

Fourth, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the interior minister, had many contacts with his brother, His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, stressing the keenness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to maintain the best friendly and brotherly ties with its sisters in the State of Qatar.

He reminded his excellency that there were ways for direct contact between them which were usually used to deal with issues concerning the two ministries. He expressed his hopes that his excellency would attend the GCC's interior ministers meeting and would differentiate between matters that were related to bilateral ties and those that fell within the framework of collective cooperation between GCC states. His highness also welcomed a meeting with his excellency to discuss any issues he saw fit.

The source concluded its statement by saying, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces these clarifications to express its deep sorrow for the content of the statement by the State of Qatar for matters which were false. If what the statement mentioned about armed incidents on the border were indeed true, responsible Qatari security authorities could have informed the closest Saudi security point at the time. But if the aim was to find justifications for Qatar not attending the GCC's interior ministers meeting, that was its business, despite our continuous efforts to get Qatar to attend all the Council's meetings.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is still very keen to have strong, brotherly relations between the two countries and the two brotherly peoples. It has always been keen on good neighborliness between all brothers."

Editorial Views Bosnian 'Tragedy'

MM0112122194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Quarrel Over Bosnia Should Stop; Are We Asking a Lot When We Say That Bosnian Muslims Should Be Given the Chance To Defend Themselves?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After days of futile quarrel, it seems that the major Western powers have woken up to the need to embark on a decisive step to avert a new catastrophe in Bihac.

A few days ago we saw U.S. Senator Bob Dole accusing Britain and France of thwarting NATO attempts to deter the Serbian aggression in Bosnia.

And as expected, Britain and France said that Senator Dole should keep the advice for himself as long as Washington refuses to send any forces to Bosnia.

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At the same time NATO was blaming the United Nations for failing to demand effective military action in the place that needs it most.

The United Nations replied by reminding everyone that it could do nothing as long as its members and those of the Security Council are divided over the next step.

It appears that every party is looking for a scapegoat. The Bosnian tragedy, which German Chancellor Helmut Kohl described as a "shame" for Europe, is so terrible that no one wants to be blamed for it. In fact everyone is avoiding doing anything to stop it.

The search for a scapegoat, and the accusation and counteraccusation, has led to one fact: The Serbs have been given the freedom to kill, disfigure, burn, and destroy as they wish in Bihac, which is known as a "safe area" protected by the United Nations.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and six foreign ministers from the major states have begun a series of diplomatic moves in former Yugoslavia.

It might be merely a diplomatic facade or "ballet" designed to convince world public opinion that they are doing something.

One can only say that more should be done, and in a more serious manner. Because it is now difficult to defend the UN position in Bosnia, and some serious cracks have appeared in the NATO structure. And last but not least, the Bosnia people are about despair. What is needed now is a clear redefinition of the UN tasks in Bosnia, coupled with a clear message to the Serbs saying that there is a line which they cannot cross without being severely punished.

Excluding any possibility of lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government is a poor policy and tantamount to an insurance policy for the Serbs. The United Nations and NATO should not exclude this option. Because the aim is to prevent the Serbs from destroying Bosnia. So if the United Nations and NATO are unable to do that, are we asking a lot when we request that the Bosnians be given the chance to defend themselves?

United Arab Emirates

Paper: U.S. Policy Always Served 'Racist Serbs'

JN0212094794 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace on Bihac Martyrs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not true that the position of the United States on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina has changed in favor of the Serbs. Facts show that the practical positions of the U.S. Administration have always served the interests of the racist Serbs and have always been against Bosnian Muslims, and that, in the end, it supports the Western racist view that, in principle, rejects the "presence of an independent Muslim state in the heart of Europe," as they claim.

At the start of the armed clashes, the Serbs, who were armed to the teeth, surprised the defenseless Muslims and launched a savage annihilation campaign which resulted during its first days in the death of more than 100,00 Muslims, over 50,000 rape cases, and the displacement of 1.5 million refugees. Then, the United States helped to issue a UN Security Council resolution to impose an arms embargo under the pretext that such a resolution would help stop the bloodshed. The United States may have even been behind this resolution. In reality, that resolution meant that the Muslims were defenseless against the savage annihilation campaign. while the Serb channels where wide open to mother Serbia, which in turn was open to arms smugglers from all over the world.

While the Muslims were being murdered and slaughtered en masse, and while their territory was being usurped inch by inch, the U.S. position did not go beyond statements that had no practical value at all. This was enough to encourage the aggression and make the Serb pirates persist in their defiance.

Even the two raids launched by NATO warplanes against some Serb bases were no more than a superficial measure—as confirmed by the Serb aggression against Bihac—designed to calm the opposition in the Congress and tranquilize the world and Islamic public opinions in preparation for the recent Serb onslaught.

Therefore, there has been no change in the U.S. position. Instead, a position which has never changed has been exposed, especially now that there is no need to conceal it any more with statements that are made for local and world consumption.

Peace on the Bihac martyrs. Peace on the Sarajevo Muslims.

Yemen

Al-Ahmar on Relations With Neighbors, Others

NC0112150694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Nov 94 p 1, 16

[Interview with House of Representatives Speaker 'Abdallah al-Ahmar by Sami Kulayb in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kulayb] What is the situation regarding relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Ahmar] We are being very clear about our determination to restore waters to their correct course between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also with the rest of the Gulf countries. We are working to

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restore fraternal relations to their former level and to remove all obstacles. We will continue doing this until we succeed, God willing.

[Kulayb] Have there been any contacts with the Kingdom after the war ended?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, there have been direct contacts as well as contacts through other channels. We cannot claim that the door is shut or the road blocked.

[Kulayb] However, despite your preparations to restore waters to their course, Saudi Arabia has not made any steps in this direction yet.

[Al-Ahmar] Moving slowly and carefully is the Kingdom's way in everything it does and all steps it takes. This is not strange. However, we are confident that it has to review its stances and reopen its policies toward Yemen. It has to work on restoring things to their historic course. Yemen cannot do without the Kingdom and the Kingdom cannot do without Yemen. We are brothers in the Gulf and are linked to each other by firm and distinguished ties and common denominators.

[Kulayb] What prompts you to be so optimistic about Saudi Arabia despite the fact that what happened before and during the Yemeni war does not encourage such optimism?

[Al-Ahmar] My knowledge about the good intentions of his majesty the king and his big heart, and the fact that I know him very well, are the things that encourage me to be so optimistic.

[Kulayb] You are the closest Yemeni to the Kingdom. Do you intend to visit it soon?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. I will visit the Kingdom soon, God willing. I have visited it often and I will repeat these visits to open the various doors and windows and restore relations to what they were like before.

[Kulayb] Do you regret the role of the Kingdom during the war, particularly since it supported former Vice President 'Ali Salim al- Bid's side?

[Al-Ahmar] When we remember events that happen with brothers or friends, we only remember what contributes toward the interests of the two parties. We rise above all sensitive matters because that is much better for all parties concerned.

[Kulayb] (Iranian Foreign Minister) 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Yemen has raised many questions about the effects of this visit on your relations with your Gulf neighbors.

[Al-Ahmar] Iran is a big Islamic country. It is also Saudi Arabia's neighbor. It is closer to the Gulf than it is to Yemen. The Iranian foreign minister has also visited Oman and Qatar, which are members in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

[Kulayb] Your alliances and foreign relations are surprising because they are so contradictory. You have a lukewarm relationship with Saudi Arabia, but your relations with Washington are good. However, your relations with the United States and the West have not prevented you from establishing strong ties with Sudan. How can you explain this?

[Al-Ahmar] The U.S. stance on Yemen during the war, which was started by the separatist and secessionist gang in Yemen, was a responsible and honorable one. It supports justice, fairness, and the people. We thank Washington for this policy. Our relations with the United States are strong and sincere and will certainly improve. The United States is the country that controls the world nowadays and everyone is competing to gain its friendship.

[Kulayb] What about the other countries, particularly Sudan?

[Al-Ahmar] I just wish to add that our relations with the United States are not new. Regarding our relations with Sudan, there have been no problems there ever since the revolution started.

[Kulayb] However, much has been said about the effective role Dr. Hasan al-Turabi played in setting the groundwork for ending the battle in your favor. How true is this?

[Al-Ahmar] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi has not played any role in what happened in Yemen.

[Kulayb] His contacts were extensive, particularly with the Yemeni Alliance for Reform. Isn't that true?

[Al-Ahmar] He did not play any role. We have great respect and appreciation for him. We value him a great deal.

[Kulayb] In the first statement by the Yemeni Government after the war, you reiterated that Islamic shari'ah will be the source for legislation. However, is it the only source?

[Al-Ahmar] This is not new for Yemen. Most Yemeni constitutions stressed this point. Islamic shari'ah is the source for legislation, except for the reconciliation constitution that was set up between the Communist Party that was ruling the south and the Sanaa government, since it was more or less a temporary reconciliation document. When the transitional period ended and elections took place, constitutional amendments were introduced and the article on the basis of the Yemeni constitution was one of those affected by these amendments.

[Kulayb] Would the absence of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] from the ruling coalition facilitate the political action between the General People's Congress and Yemeni Reform Group?

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[Al-Ahmar] The YSP chose to be on the opposition side. This is its natural position at present. However, socialism has ended worldwide with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The slogans of socialism are obsolete and have failed. We in Yemen belong to this world.

[Kulayb] Do I understand from your words that the YSP no longer exists?

[Al-Ahmar] The YSP ended itself, although we opened our hearts for it. But it insisted on ending itself.

[Kulayb] Since the end of the war the opposition parties have been releasing statements complaining against the wide-scale campaigns of arrests. Why do you not put an end to this?

[Al-Ahmar] Most of what is being said is baseless. Perhaps small things happened as a result of the war.

[Kulayb] The Constitution approved the principle of free economy. But the World Bank imposed difficult conditions on you. It wants you to sack two thirds of the state's employees. Will you do this?

[Al-Ahmar] The World Bank's conditions are well known in the Third World countries. We are a part of this world. The bank wants us to make some reforms as a condition for cooperation. But we know our country's interests and conditions better than anyone. We will meet the World Bank's requirements according to our limits.

[Kulayb] But certainly you will reject what you cannot implement?

[Al-Ahmar] The other conditions could be implemented in stages.

[Kulayb] The economic factor is your main concern at present, particularly since you are forced to devalue your currency. How would you face this?

[Al-Ahmar] It is true that this is our main concern because any deterioration in the economic situation will represent a burden on the people. We have a saying that he who works hard shall be rewarded, so we must succeed even if this success is gradual because the good intention is there.

[Kulayb] What is your stance on the current form of the Middle East peace talks?

[Al-Ahmar] In Yemen, we are far away from the area and we have never been among the frontline states or the confrontation states.

[Kulayb] But you were among the countries that provided moral support and had close ties with the PLO.

[Al-Ahmar] True, but the onus is on the closer country; the Palestinians should come first, then the frontline states, and afterward come the countries that bore financial burdens. Peace is required, but what is needed is a peace that achieves the Palestinian people's rights, not one that achieves Israel's desires.

[Kulayb] Many Arab countries, including some Gulf states, have begun paving the way to establish relations with Israel. Do you agree on the normalization [with Israel]?

[Al-Ahmar] We want peace, not capitulation. What is being pushed through is in the interest of Israel, not the Palestinians. We aspire for a peace that serves everyone's interests and realizes all rights of the Palestinian people.

[Kulayb] Has Israel tried to contact you to open channels of communication?

[Al-Ahmar] No, this has not happened.

[Kulayb] How did the transfer of the Yemeni Jews to Israel take place?

[Al-Ahmar] The Yemeni Jews are unimportant, and as the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat said, they don't fill a bus. Their number in Yemen now does not exceed 900. Their stay with us or their departure does not benefit or harm us.

[Kulayb] Why didn't you meet any French official during your current visit to Paris even though the French stance was good during the war?

[Al-Ahmar] My visit was not political or official, it was for treatment. I made no contacts during the visit because I did not want to engage myself and the French in meetings that were not the purpose of my visit to Paris. Visits are normally scheduled in advance and incidental meetings should not take place. I stick to the purpose of my visit, which is treatment.

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Former Intelligence Chief Said To Join Opposition

MM0212120494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 94 pp1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, Iraqi opposition sources have said that Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former Iraqi chief of intelligence, has fled with his family from Baghdad to the areas under Kurdish control in northern Iraq and expressed a desire to join the opposition.

The sources say that al-Samarra'i has important information about Iraqi intelligence networks and activities which he might reveal at a press conference he intends to hold "within two days."

They add that he was in charge of military intelligence until 1991 after which he was given security duties at the republican palace in Baghdad. They quote al-Samarra'i as saying that displeasure with the Iraqi regime has increased in circles close to President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, which is attached to the opposition's Iraqi National Congress [INC], has reported that the INC issued a statement welcoming al-Samarra'i on behalf of its Presidential Council and Executive Council now meeting in Salah-al-Din. The statement said that al-Samarra'i's decision to join [the opposition] was "a magnificent move...confirming the genuine vitality of our valiant army and its vivid conscience, and a strong blow to the Iraqi dictator and his black regime."

The INC also said that the fact that al-Samarra'i had joined the "liberated region of Iraq" was an indication that "the trench of dictatorship is getting narrower and smaller and that the honorable people who have been involved with the regime are leaving the positions of injustice and slavery."

Performance of Security Forces Criticized

JN0112155394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 27 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Abu-Sarhan: "Al-Manakh Market or...?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] When we were children, they used to tell us the Iraqis were a people with a great civilization and that they were characterized by two traits; namely, intelligence and creativity. We were primary, intermediary, and secondary school boys and did not understand such talk. In most cases, we used to laugh amongst ourselves and say that our teachers say this because they want us to study harder.

Let us talk about the Iraqis' trait of creativity. It was clearly manifested in the reconstruction of what was destroyed, especially the country's infrastructure, including factories, electricity, and communications. The reconstruction campaign has now started to scare the enemy more than before the Mother of Battles. It is similar to the reconstruction drive they targeted in the eight-year [Iranian-Iraqi] war, during which the leader used to tell them that they would lose. They lost and continue to lose. This fact was manifested through the emergence of military industry, particularly in 1986, which reached its peak in 1990, the year preceding the aggression.

As for the trait of intelligence, many Iraqis used to deduce the status and course of battles throughout the eight years of war from the countenance of leader Saddam Husayn when he appeared on television, regardless of the communiques issued by the General Command of the Armed Forces and the mobilization campaign staged by the Ministry of Culture and Information. They used to understand and realize through the leader's face whether the battle was in our favor or not, and whether it was a battle where there was victory or defeat.

This intelligence is demonstrated by the Iraqis' understanding of the causes behind the issuance of decisions, regardless of the names under which they are issued. They knew that a certain person was behind these decisions.

A number of decisions were issued recently. The Iraqis understand why the leader issued them. In some cases, the people's perception of the purpose of these decisions was more prompt than that of many institutions and organizations. The Iraqis also realize that, at a certain point, no matter how great the edifice of the state can be, hesitation and retreat will emerge if the leader is not behind this edifice and if his fingerprints are not left on it. Therefore, the leader is the person who checked the hike in the price of the U.S. dollar by assuming the prime minister's portfolio. The West has acknowledged the ability of this person to direct the political battle with the West through the so-called Iraqi Army's moves in the southern area—moves that brought the question of Iraq to the limelight and led to the retreat of the U.S. dollar prices. The Iraqis also realized that the leader is now in direct charge of the Iraqi diplomacy through the divisions he caused within the Security Council, through the marked change in the latest statement, and through the establishment of direct dialogue with the Russians through a hot line between Baghdad and Moscow. So, how long will this situation continue?

On 23 October 1994, we published in the "Above the Red Line" column a letter from an Iraqi citizen in which he dealt with the issue of fictitious companies—a group of companies that tried to mask themselves and claim that they were run by influential people. On 31 October 1994, Mazhar 'Arif wrote an article on the same issue. On 5 November 1994, BABIL published a "Whisper" on the same issue. However, the issue was followed up by the security forces only two weeks ago.

Do we need new burdens added to those already incurred by the embargo? This situation is totally different from the case of the al-Manakh [stock] market in

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Kuwait. The catastrophe of the stock market in Kuwait afflicted the well-to-do and the bourgeois, but now in our country the middle and lower classes are the affected sectors, in addition to a bourgeois minority. This means that this has hurt the majority of people, who, under the embargo, were forced to sell some of their electric appliances to make ends meet. Suffice it to go to al-Za'faraniyah area to see the real suffering of all the people there and many in other Baghdad areas. This adds yet another undesirable burden to those imposed by the blockade. We could have spared ourselves this new burden if this issue had been addressed right from the beginning and if it had been checked before letting it grow in such a manner.

We always hope that the press will outdo other bodies in pointing out negative aspects. However, we do not wish to see the press and media point them out before the security forces do, because if this happens, it will be a real catastrophe. We do not want this issue to be addressed in the same manner as the issue of the explosions, which numbered 10 in two years and which were carried out most successfully.

Paper Condemns 'False' Companies Activities

JN2911140694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 4

["Signals" column by Yunis Hasan al-Samarra'i: "Frauds and Usurers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a steady increase recently in cases where some misguided individuals defraud and cheat innocent citizens. Blinded by their quest for wealth, these individuals go about devising every means to collect money, using thousands of families as their victims.

These individuals appear under false trade names and companies which engage in usury, offering an interest rate several times over what is normally given by the banks. This in itself is a violation of Iraqi law, which does not permit offering an interest rate which is higher than that given by the banks. These misguided individuals have encouraged a large number of Iraqi families to sell their household effects and valuables in order to give the money to these usurers, who pay them a monthly percentage of the capital or the money which they themselves have paid to make the families feel reassured. Very soon, however, we discover that the usurers have suddenly disappeared with the rest of the money.

If such acts are a violation of the Iraqi Penal Code which calls for bringing these individuals to justice, those acts are also a violation of the Islamic Shari'a under which God Almighty bans all forms of usury. Furthermore, these individuals are creating by such acts an army of unemployed people who depend on whatever they get from the interest without attempting to find jobs in the vast Iraqi labor market.

Acquiescence to these individuals legalizes their thievery, since no sound business activity gives a dividend similar to the one offered by these frauds.

The question is: Where is the role of the educationists and enlightened and cultured people in exposing these frauds? What can we say about the ordinary citizen when we know that many of those who fall victim to these misguided individuals are professors and educated people, including economic specialists? It has become essential for the competent quarters to take measures in order to protect the citizens from the evil doings of these frauds.

Saddam Receives Message From Moroccan King

JN0112182894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has received a written message from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

Abdelkebir Alaoui M'Daghri, Moroccan minister of Waqf and Islamic Affairs and personal envoy of His Majesty King Hassan II, conveyed the message when he was received by the leader president today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al- Sahhaf; 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of Awqaf and religious affairs; and Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, adviser at the Presidency.

U.S. 'Pressure' Blamed for Continued Embargo

JN0112121594 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Dec 1, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily has today emphasised that the United Nations Security Council non-commitment to lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq is not stemming from a failure in Iraq's implementation of the international resolutions but because of the United States domination that precluded the implementation of the Council's obligations.

The daily tackled in an article today the group of resolutions the council had taken against Iraq under urging of the United States and focused on the Resolution 687 that considered the question of raising embargo on Iraqi oil conditioned to implementation of all its provisions contained in Paragraph /C/.

The paper pointed out that Iraq had already carried out articles 8-12 included in Paragraph /C/ and said Iraq's commitment made it a must on the Security Council to implement the item 22 of its Resolution 687 related to lifting the oil embargo.

The newspaper concentrated on the U.S. antagonising of Iraq and the pressure Washington had been putting on

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the Security Council to fail in meeting its obligations and said Iraq had implemented the Resolution 687 including the recognition of Kuwait despite its not being a legal condition for lifting the blockade.

Paper Sees U.S.-Egyptian Ties as Strained

JN0212113794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH maintains that the Husni Mubarak regime no longer represents the "beautiful" image the Americans seek for America's agents.

In an article published today, the paper adds that the reasons for promoting this new attitude toward the Egyptian regime by the U.S. Administration have something to do with firm U.S. policy pillars regarding the regimes that take orders from the U.S. Administration. The political and media effect of this new attitude is meant to be felt.

The commentary by the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comes in the aftermath of an article published by THE WASHINGTON POST, which called for adopting a firm U.S. policy toward the Egyptian regime and hinted that there is incongruity between Washington and Cairo. It is to be recalled that the U.S. President reads THE WASHINGTON POST when he has breakfast every day.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH adds: We cannot interpret these hints as the outcome of a temporary position dictated by a need to address problems in the U.S.-Egyptian relationship. These hints are part of a thorough U.S. reconsideration of the fragile Husni Mubarak regime, of its inability to a address its domestic political and economic woes, and of its failure on the regional scene. Besides, this regime's erroneous political practices have been exposed.

The paper goes on to say: The United States has always taken the utmost advantage of its agents. It has always recruited them to promote imperialist interests and achieve imperialist purposes. They are always rendered docile tools that are willing to take the most despicable and meanest positions. Eventually, the agents of the United States are denied the status of permanent friends of the U.S. godfather. Likewise, they are denied protection.

The paper says: Once the Americans feel that their agent regimes have become a liability on the United States, they are toppled in favor of new agents who are meant to rule in a new era after these regimes are exposed, regardless of the enormous services they might have rendered to the Americans. This is how the Americans act when the purposes for installing and protecting agent regimes are exhausted.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: This is how the United States acted in Panama and several South American countries. It also did that to several agent regimes in southeast Asia. If we want a more recent example of American conduct in this regard, we only have to recall what the United States did to the shah of Iran, and what it is doing to the Saudi regime: For several months, U.S. sources have been exposing this regime's scandals on a large scale.

Israel Said Seeking To Absorb Arab Resources

JN2911160594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL- QADISIYAH published here today has stated that the Zionist entity seeks to absorb the huge Arab resources through joint industrial projects with certain Arab states.

In an article published today, the paper, which specializes in military affairs, adds that the Zionist entity will reap billions of dollars after the Casablanca economic conference decided to open Arab trade markets for its industrial products.

The paper goes on to say that Zionist industrial and agricultural projects will depend on Arab funds and Zionist scientific expertise, noting that Tel Aviv is planning to export 10-15 percent of its products to the Arab states per year, which is worth $5-7 billion.

The paper concludes by saying that the Casablanca conference has given the Zionist entity a golden opportunity and a lifeline to rid itself of the Arab boycott that has been in force since the inception of this entity in 1948.

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Rabin Refuses Comment on al-Asad 'Status Quo' Remark

TA0112195594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Dec 94

['Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refused to comment on Syrian President al-Asad's remark that he prefers the status quo with Israel. Al-Asad made the remark after his meeting today in Damascus with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Rabin is angry with al-Asad for preventing Syrian Army officers from participating in an ambassadors' meeting in Washington attended by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Rosen] There has been yet another attempt to rescue the negotiations. President Mubarak paid a surprise visit to Damascus. He believes that their common tongue will enable him to succeed where the Americans have failed. However, following al-Asad's harsh remarks—he said he prefers maintaining the status quo rather than agreeing to Rabin's unacceptable proposals—the prime minister prefers to wait with his response.

[Begin Rabin recording] I prefer to hear the significance of President al-Asad's announcement from Secretary of State Christopher before reacting to it. [end recording]

[Rosen] Christopher returns to the region next week, but in the meantime, the intensive discussions in Washington between Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim on what has been a secret track has also been frozen. A week and a half ago in Washington Rabin hinted at an abortive attempt to set up another secret track. Yesterday, we disclosed that there was an attempt to expand the ambassadors' track to include military officers from both countries. Clinton tried to cook up that dish during his tour of Damascus and Jerusalem. Israel paid up: Army officers, including a senior officer, which according to unofficial information was Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch, travelled to Washington, but the Syrians canceled their participation at the last minute. Therefore only Israeli army officers participated in the meeting with Ambassador al-Mu'allim.

The Prime Minister's Bureau said after today's report from Damascus: You now know why Yitzhaq Rabin was so angry with Syria last week and why he has repeatedly expressed disappointment with the lack of progress in the negotiations with Damascus. Warren Christopher arrives here next week in further attempt to resuscitate the negotiations and perhaps secure a Syrian agreement for a direct and real negotiating track in Washington.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 1 December adds: "In an address to Labor's Central Committee, the prime minister said that we must not permit the Islamic movements to halt the peace process. He said those movements are the biggest and perhaps only enemy of the State of Israel, and we must fight them. Mr. Rabin blamed Iran for pouring funds and weapons to the extremist Muslim organizations in Lebanon. He disclosed that several days ago the security zone was shelled with Israeli-made shells fired from north of the zone. We have to be more cautious in selling arms, the prime minister said. The chairman of the Israel Military Industries workers committee said in reaction that Mr. Rabin has to blame himself because it is up to the government to decide to whom to sell arms."]

Rabinovich: Al-Asad Remarks Result of 'Distress'

TA0212062694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Arye Golan in Washington on 1 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rabinovich] The remarks made by Syrian President al-Asad are not really in keeping with negotiations but rather with haggling, which is also a component of these negotiations. It was a sharp pronouncement and, in the coming weeks, we will feel an even sharper tone from Damascus. I believe this does not reflect a desire to hold up the negotiations but rather Syria's feeling that it has lost ground, that its standing is not as firm as it was before, that it is in some sort of distress as a result of various statements made in the region and in the world. It is characteristic of Syria's negotiating style that when such things occur, it tends to clench its fist in order not to be viewed as being weakened but rather as standing firm. The real background to the remarks, I think, is this feeling of distress.

[Golan] The distress and the sharper tone are also evident in the fact that Syria is blaming Israel for the deadlock because of our refusal to resume the Washington talks in the old format. Do you think it would have been preferable to break off all contacts?

[Rabinovich] I think our work with the U.S. negotiating team in Washington in recent months has been effective because we managed to keep a low profile. With your permission, I will continue to maintain that profile and will not comment either positively or negatively on any reports about meetings that may have taken place in Washington.

[Golan] Does this also refer to the reports that Major General 'Uzi Dayan participated in a meeting here with Syrian officers on security arrangements with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I am referring to all types of reports touching on diplomatic efforts in Washington.

[Golan] Do you expect Christopher to succeed in getting things moving this time?

[Rabinovich] I definitely hope that he will succeed. I think it is important because of the somber atmosphere

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hovering over the negotiations, mainly as a result of the Syrian pronouncements to the media over the past two weeks. I very much hope the secretary of state will manage to put an end to those pronouncements and get the negotiations back to the businesslike tone that characterized them prior to the last two or three weeks.

Significant Syrian Move Said Needed Before Talks

TA0212074194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem is awaiting the arrival of Secretary of State Warren Christopher to try to resolve the crisis in the talks with the Syrians. In response to al-Asad's latest remarks, senior political sources said last night that there is currently nothing to discuss with Syria if al-Asad does not take a significant step to advance the negotiations. IDF Radio has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently rejected a U.S. proposal to publicly reiterate the government decision of June 1967 in which Israel offered Syria peace based on the international boundary. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The negotiations with Syria are stuck, and it is doubtful whether Secretary Christopher can extricate them from the deadlock. Nonetheless, with the negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem being conducted through mutual attacks by Rabin and al-Asad in the media in recent days, the prime minister took refuge last night in choosing to await Secretary Christopher's arrival on Tuesday for another shuttle mission before commenting on al-Asad's latest remarks. [passage omitted]

A senior political source said last night that there is currently nothing to discuss with the Syrians. If al-Asad does not take a significant step to advance the negotiations, there is no chance we will reach an arrangement in the coming year, the source said. The few contacts being held with the Syrians within the framework of the Washington track are being conducted under a veil of secrecy, as are the messages from the Americans.

We have learned that Prime Minister Rabin recently rejected a proposal relayed by the Americans to publicly reiterate the government decision of June 1967 in which Israel offered a peace treaty with Syria based on the international border and on Israel's security needs. That government decision also said, quote, the peace treaty will call for the demilitarization of the Syrian Golan Heights being held by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], unquote.

About six months ago, Foreign Minister Peres offered those goods at a meeting of the United Kibbutz Movement. His remarks set off a storm, but Rabin kept silent. The message was relayed but was not accepted. That is what Peres says, the Syrians told the Americans, but we want to know what Rabin has to say. The Americans raised the idea, but Rabin refused to repeat the government statement. The feeling in Jerusalem is that Israel has done enough to advance the negotiations and that it is now al-Asad's turn. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin had this to say:

[Beilin] Al-Asad thinks he can get more concessions from us before what we consider the period of opportunities ends. I can tell him in the clearest fashion that Israel does not plan to make additional concessions. What has already been said by the Israeli leadership is very far-reaching.

[Segal] In the meantime, al-Asad has rejected almost everything. With regard to substance, he rejected the Israeli demand for normalization following a minor withdrawal on the Golan Heights. With regard to procedure, he rejected the U.S. confidence- building proposals and an Israeli demand to raise the level of the negotiations and to include army officers in the talks between the ambassadors of the two countries. Prime Minister Rabin is relaying a clear message: If al-Asad thinks Israel's positions will mellow by the middle of next year, when Israel believes the window of opportunities will shut, he is mistaken, and that is a pity. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 2 December adds that at a news conference in Rome, "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres rejected al-Asad's accusations." The report adds that "Peres says there is no progress because Syria continues to set conditions before the start of negotiations. Peres believes al-Asad has adopted a strategy of peace, but this was a strategy without tactics."]

Peres Criticizes Beilin for Interim Stage Proposal

TA0112191494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tonight criticized his deputy, Yosi Beilin, for proposing yesterday that the interim stage in the territories should be skipped and negotiations be moved directly to the permanent settlement.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Peres, who is in Italy, said it is a pity that such ideas are being raised now because Jerusalem will become the focus of the negotiations and no one has a good solution to that problem yet.

Minister Said To Support Giving Up Half of West Bank

TA0212103294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [4 December], the cabinet will begin deliberations on the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians and will reconvene later in the week to continue the discussions. Our

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political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur supports setting up three large Arab enclaves in Judaea and Samaria and removing the Jewish settlements from those areas. He believes that in the final settlement, the Palestinians should be given half the territory of Judaea and Samaria.

Savir Refutes Analysts' View on Need for Concessions

TA0212120594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The Oslo agreement is strong enough to overcome any obstacle, and I assume that the Declaration of Principles will be the instrument to pioneer the way, surmount any remaining pitfalls, and exhibit enough flexibility to enable the implementation of the next stage." This was stated yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir upon his return from the convention of the donor countries which took place in Brussels.

Savir was thus reacting to assessments voiced by senior analysts, who believe that it will be very difficult to reach an interim arrangement with the Palestinians without significant concessions. Savir thinks that these assessments, just like the previous assessments made regarding the Oslo agreement, will be proven wrong. Savir said that "most assessments until now said that the agreement could not be implemented. Many thought it could not be implemented in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Many people, in fact a majority," Savir said, "claimed that Yasir 'Arafat would not want elections. Many said 'Arafat would not remain in Gaza for more than three days. Many said he would boycott economic cooperation with Israel. Many said it would prove impossible to work with even the most senior levels of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. There were also those who said that the Rafah and Allenby Bridge border crossings would not function. All these assessments have been proved wrong."

As for the public debate in Israel regarding the continuation of the negotiations with the Palestinians, Savir said: "It would be best if we realized that the agreement will lead to the Palestinians' assuming control over their lives in the West Bank as well, to elections, and to maximum security for Israel. Nevertheless, in the interest of the negotiations, it is better not to conduct a public debate."

Savir asserted that it is still premature to discuss the way in which the interim arrangement will be implemented before detailed negotiations are held on the principles. "There are many possible options for a package deal, but until the issues have been thoroughly studied, it is still too early to talk about them." Savir said "it is better for Israel, which has yet to sign many agreements in the future, to insist that the other side implement what was agreed upon and maintain a high level of credibility in keeping agreements." The Foreign Ministry director general said he had been encouraged by his meetings with 'Arafat and other PA officials this week in Brussels. He noted the "improvement in the quality of the dialogue with the PA and its greater readiness for economic cooperation. They expressed a higher degree of understanding for the fact that they have to take our security interests into account, just as we have to consider their economic interests." [passage omitted]

Rabin Attacks Judicial System on Security

TA0212113494 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sharply attacked the judicial system, which he said interferes with maintaining security. He said that had he been able to act on his intention to put the terrorist who killed the female soldier, Li'at Gabay, in 'Afula on Wednesday under administrative detention, the murder could have been prevented.

"In the war with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], my hands are partially tied. I cannot make arrests if I have no legal basis when presenting the judge with a request for detention," the prime minister told a Labor Central Committee meeting.

Rabin disclosed that Dhahab Abu-al-Ra'ub, the 'Afula terrorist, was on the list of candidates for administrative detention, but the detentions were not carried out for legal reasons. "The murderer was in jail for three years. Upon his release, he was put under administrative detention, but the court sentenced him to only six months detention, and he was later released." [passage omitted]

Shin Bet Allowed Tougher Measures on Hamas

TA0112190194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet received authorization from the government to interrogate two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] detainees using tougher measures than permitted by the Landau Committee, our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David has learned. This led to the capture of 15 other Hamas activists in the territories and the confiscation of weapons.

The first two detainees were captured three days after the attack on the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv [19 October]. The Shin Bet asked the government for permission to interrogate them without the restrictions of moderate physical pressure permitted by the Landau Committee, and this was granted. The interrogation of the two led to the discovery and capture of dozens Hamas activists. Among the detainees are Samih 'Amar, a Qalqilyah

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resident who planned to perpetrate a suicide attack in Petah Tiqva. Our correspondent notes that it is the first time that the security services have captured a terrorist planning to commit suicide and his interrogation assisted in painting a profile of Hamas suicide attackers.

Minister on Possible Property Claims by Jordanians

TA0212074694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian civilians plan to claim from Israel the assets their families possessed here prior to Israel's War of Independence or to demand financial compensation for them. Attorneys for the Jordanians will present the claims after the Jordanian Embassy opens in Tel Aviv next week.

Justice Minister David Liba'i told our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller that Israel does not have the legal foundations to deal with property claims from absentee owners and that, if the need arises, the government will discuss the matter.

Russia Protests Treatment of Female Tourists

TA0112163494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has officially protested Israel's attitude toward female Russian tourists. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Bovin presented the protest to Foreign Ministry Director General Eytan Bentzur. It refers to a complaint by a Jewish female tourist, Natalya Qiesalova, who was detained at Ben-Gurion Airport for 50 hours on suspicion of being a prostitute and was deported without being allowed to telephone relatives in Israel. It was later learned that she is not a prostitute.

Sheves Rejects Charges of Undermining Ministers

TA0112114594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shim'on Sheves, the beleaguered director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, struck back at his critics yesterday, charging that they have long had it in for him and are plotting his political destruction.

Sheves has been under severe attack by cabinet ministers and MK's [Knesset members], who charge that he has been grading ministers' performance, that he has maligned ministers in conversations with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, that he leaks rumors about ministers to the press, and that he has been seeking to convince Rabin to re- shuffle his cabinet and fire several ministers, including the finance and housing ministers.

Until now, Sheves has kept his silence but, apparently after Rabin gave him the green light, he spoke to reporters during a tour of Rehovot and Nes Ziyyona and liberally granted interviews to the electronic media.

He categorically denied that he had been undermining ministers he does not like or that he has been interfering with some ministerial operations.

"I don't know where people got the idea about a report I prepared on the ministers' performance in office. This is sheer fabrication. Some people like MK Hagay Merom (Labor) have had it in for me for a long time. I have long been on his hit list, and he spared no effort to attack me.

"This is nothing new. I think the onslaught in the last few days ought to be considered in the general context of relations within the party."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office have been claiming that supporters of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have been targeting Sheves as a means of hitting out at Rabin.

"How can anyone know what I whisper in Rabin's ear?" Sheves asked. "Hagay Merom has never been seen anywhere between my lips and Rabin's ear."

Rabin, Sheves maintained, supports him fully.

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Reportage on Prime Minister al-Hariri's Resignation

Al-Hariri Tenders Resignation

NC0112225394 Paris AFP in English 2239 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 1 (AFP)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri tendered his resignation Thursday [1 December] at a special government meeting, government officials said.

Al-Hariri informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the meeting of his "definitive wish to step down," the officials said.

Al-Hariri has headed a government of 29 ministers since October 31, 1992.

Asked by al-Hirawi to stay in his post, al-Hariri agreed to stay until the end of the meeting, so that important decisions could be adopted, including a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage.

But al-Hariri restated his desire to step down at the end of the meeting, and went home, where he was joined by 15 ministers.

Al-Hariri has faced mounting opposition in the past few weeks, despite his image as promoter of Lebanon's reconstruction after the ravages of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Parliament, led by pro-Syrian speaker Nabih Birri, and ministers close to Damascus have bitterly attacked al-Hariri's policies.

Al-Hirawi has also accused the prime minister of adopting a "hegemonistic" style.

Al-Hariri: Resignation 'Irreversible'

NC0212071094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] What happened at the Council of Ministers session last night? All available press information this morning indicates that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri tendered his resignation at the session. When he left the meeting, his only answer to a flood of questions was: I have nothing to say, nothing has happened. Several ministers followed him out and they too remained silent.

When the session ended, a private meeting among President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and ministers was held. At the meeting, al-Hariri promised not to announce anything and said he will run things for only five days. Let every official bear his responsibility and manage his own affairs. My resignation is irreversible, he said.

Ministers close to the head of government said they still hope further efforts will postpone the crisis but they are not as optimistic as they were, because they noted some psychological change in al-Hariri's conduct, which gives the crisis a new dimension. The evidence is that al-Hariri has started taking measures to cancel his trip to China. He said: How can I go and hold talks with a big country when I have resigned? Are we joking?

The Cabinet session began normally and stayed that way for 90 minutes after the ministerial committee on labor demands presented its report. After approving an item on workers and deciding a wage increase, the subject of St. George's was raised, namely, allowing the St. George's Hotel Company to dump rubble into the sea, thereby turning 12,000 meters of sea water into land. This issue caused sharp differences in the previous session. In yesterday's session, Ministers Nicolas Fattush, Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, and Sulayman Franjiyah raised the issue, saying it had not been decided. President al-Hirawi, supported by some ministers, responded by saying that a vote took place in the previous session and that the issue, consequently, was over. Here, Ministers Fattush and Abu-Hamdan objected and said the voting was to establish a committee from the ministers of works and finance to gather information about the subject and its legal aspects. This point raised an elaborate and sharp debate between the two sides, after which Minister Abu-Hamdan addressed President al-Hirawi, saying: We want to know, Your Excellency, to whom does St. George's belong? Somebody has bought 70 percent of it. At this point, Prime Minister al-Hariri, who, from the beginning, avoided the debate, showed signs of emotion. He rose and said to al-Hirawi: Your Excellency the President: Consider me to have resigned. I am tendering my resignation and going out to announce it.

Al-Hariri rushed out of the hall but was followed by Minister Junblatt and other ministers, then by the president. They all tried to catch him before he could reach the press room to announce the resignation. They prevented him from making the announcement and they all went into an anteroom. The session went into recess and the other ministers stayed behind, awaiting the results.

It was said that during the one-hour private meeting in the anteroom, swift contacts were held with Damascus, and efforts were made to persuade al-Hariri to change his mind. It appeared that the efforts succeeded, as everybody returned to the Cabinet hall, where the remaining items on the agenda were studied quickly without any real discussion.

Decision Said Made During Damascus Trip

NC0212081994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The [pro-Hizballah radio] Voice of Light has claimed that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri visited Damascus on 29 November and sought permission to tender his resignation. The radio adds that Syrian

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Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam intervened but al-Hariri insisted on his resignation.

Contacts Try To Settle 'Storm'

NC0212083794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report by Yazbik Wahbah at the Presidential Palace, in B'abda, on 2 December—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that contacts have been going on since this morning in an attempt to calm the storm raised by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the end of the Council of Ministers session last night. Al-Hariri threatened to resign after sharp arguments and an exchange of accusations.

This morning Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi in B'abda Palace for about 20 minutes. In a chat with the Voice of Lebanon, al-Murr denied there was any problem between President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri. The differences are between al-Hariri and some ministers, he said. Al-Murr said he was leaving for Quraytim Palace to meet the prime minister and follow up developments.

Statement Issued on Resignation

NC0212091394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Statement issued by Prime Minister al-Hariri's media office; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some news media have attributed Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's resignation to his Cabinet position on living conditions and on some items on the agenda of the latest Council of Ministers session.

The information and analyses published and broadcast in this regard are untrue and have no link with the resignation or its reasons. They are part of a campaign of media and political fabrication against the government, its head, and the state institutions in general.

Al-Hariri Cancels China Trip

NC0212091694 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has canceled a landmark visit to China following his decision to submit his resignation, his office said Friday [2 December].

Al-Hariri, who was to due to begin his visit to Beijing on Sunday, will instead hold talks that day with the Syrian leadership in Damascus, the key power broker in Lebanon.

He would have been the first Lebanese premier to travel to China since diplomatic relations between the two countries were set up 23 years ago.

Al-Hariri informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi of his "definitive wish to step down," during a special cabinet session on Thursday night, officials said, although there has been no formal announcement of his planned departure.

Chinese Embassy Informed of Cancellation

NC0212120294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has canceled his official trip to China slated for Sunday 4 December. The Chinese Embassy was informed of this decision today.

Al-Hariri Confirms Resignation

NC0212115794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to journalists' questions and to prevent any interpretations by political circles, the media office of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has issued a statement saying that al-Hariri has confirmed the resignation reported by news media this morning. The statement said al-Hariri will explain the full reasons and circumstances of the resignation in a resignation letter he will submit to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

President al-Hirawi contacted Prime Minister al-Hariri twice today. Al-Hariri received phone calls from Maronite Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr; the acting mufti of the Republic, Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani; and Higher Shiite Council Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. They said they wished al-Hariri would reconsider the resignation decision.

Al-Hirawi 'Very Sorry' About Resignation

NC0212123294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report by the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the Presidential Palace in B'abda—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The contacts held at the B'abda Palace today centered on Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's decision to resign. President Ilyas al-Hirawi appealed to al-Hariri and other officials to rise to their responsibilities at this delicate stage in Lebanon's history. President al-Hirawi deplored the events at the Council of Ministers session and expressed regret over Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's intention to resign. This was stated by journalists doyen Muhammad B'albaki after his visit to the president. Let us listen to B'albaki:

[Begin B'albaki recording] The president was very sorry about what happened at the Council of Ministers session and sorry about Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's intention to resign. You all know what happened after Prime

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Minister al-Hariri announced that he intended to resign and you all know how many ministers appealed to him to wait. The president personally appealed to him to wait and they all continued the Cabinet session in the presence of al-Hariri. But it seems, as I understand it from his excellency the president, that the prime minister is insisting on his resignation, although extensive and serious efforts are being made to convince him to rescind his decision, especially since Lebanon, as [words indistinct], is coming toward basic, important, and extremely serious regional developments affecting its national fate—the negotiations for a settlement in the region. We all know that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be coming to the region in few days. It is not right for Lebanon to face such a development with a politically unstable situation, such as the one that might result from Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's insistence on his resignation, or from a major ministerial crisis due to al-Hariri's deciding not to bear the government responsibility.

President al-Hirawi knows the delicate circumstances in Lebanon. I heard from his excellency an appeal to the prime minister and to all the officials to rise to their responsibilities at this sensitive stage. [end recording] [passage omitted]

GWF Chief Says Cabinet Decisions 'Worst' Ever

NC0212103794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] General Workers Federation [GWF] President Ilyas Abu-Rizq has termed the dialogue between the GWF and the government as the dialogue of the deaf. In a statement to our radio, Abu-Rizq described the decisions made by the Council of Ministers yesterday as the worst decisions made by any government in the history of the trade union movement. The decisions show disdain for the people, he said.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Backs Khamene'i

LD0112223794 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec. 1, IRNA—Secretary-General of the Lebanese Hizballah Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah here today underlined that the qualifications are manifest in the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to hold the post of marja'-e taqlid [source of emulation].

Addressing the audience gathered at the al-Barjawi Mosque in Beirut to mourn the death of the Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki, Nasrallah said that according to the opinion of some 25 grand ayatollahs, the Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i is a marja'-e taqlid and that people could follow him as a marja'-e taqlid.

He said that since the departure of the late Imam Khomeyni once again the qualifications for the post of leadership and the marja'-e taqlid of the Shi'ites have gathered in a prominent personality. At the end of the ceremony Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's portraits were distributed among the audience.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC2811203594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Three resistance men were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol in the Arnun area of the central sector this afternoon. Security sources said that the clash, in which rockets and machine guns were used, also left an Israeli soldier wounded.

The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine this evening claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli patrol. In its statement, the movement did not refer to its own casualties during the attack.

'Resistance' Attacks Israeli Convoy in Bra'shit

NC3011204794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic resistance sources have announced that one of their units shelled an Israeli convoy of three troop carriers and one Merkava tank inside the Bra'shit position this evening, scoring direct hits.

Our security correspondent cited sources close to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon as saying that the Israeli forces fired heavy and medium machine guns at areas surrounding their positions in the Bra'shit and Haddathah hills. The Israelis also bombarded the outskirts of Haddathah, Haris, Bayt Yahun, and 'Ayta al-Jabal with more than 40 shells between 1900 and 2000 tonight.

Government Moves To Curb Fighting in Refugee Camps

Cabinet Decides To Disarm Camps

NC0112061494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTERS has cited a ranking official in the Lebanese Government as saying that the government will ask the Palestinians in the camps to hand over all their arms, including light weapons. If they do not, the Army will enter the camps. The official added: The decision was made during the Cabinet meeting on 29 November after fighting broke out last week in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

AFP cited Lebanese officials saying that the objective of the government's decision is to prevent further battles and the creation of isolated pockets where no security is provided. They clarified that the decision was made after consultations with the Syrian authorities and that the

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government intends to implement its decision by coordinating with the Palestinian organizations and the popular committees administering the camps so as to avoid any incidents.

Fatah Official on Disarmament

NC0112132994 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rashidiyah, Lebanon, Dec 1 (AFP)—The Lebanese government must discuss any move to disarm Palestinians in refugee camps with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, a top official of the PLO's Fatah movement said on Thursday [1 December].

A government official said on Wednesday that Lebanon was to disarm Palestinian refugees and could send the army into their camps if they objected following internecine fighting last week which left six dead.

Sultan Abul Aynain, head of Fatah in Lebanon, told AFP the issue of disarming the Palestinians was "political" and therefore should be dealt with by the PLO leadership.

The operation would mainly involve medium-caliber personal arms, since heavy weapons were already supposed to have been removed in July 1991.

Abul Aynain, who was speaking in the Rashidiyah refugee camp, 87 kilometers (around 54 miles) south of Beirut, condemned last week's fighting in Ain Helweh between rival Fatah factions

It broke out when supporters of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat tried in vain to wrest control of the camp from opponents who had split from his main Fatah faction after the 1993 signing of the peace accords with Israel.

Abul Aynain suggested the creation of a joint Lebanese-Palestinian committee to examine ways of preventing any new fighting, saying that last week's clashes were "dictated by regional considerations."

"Lebanon is engaged in negotiations with Israel and I think that the weapons which the Palestinian have are a card in the hands of the Lebanese and the Syrians," Abul Aynain said.

"So why offer them as of now to the Americans, before the arrival of Warren Christopher," he added, in reference to the US secretary of state who starts a new peace shuttle between Israel and Syria next week.

"In the interest of the Palestinians and the Lebanese the issue of disarming the Palestinians should be discussed with the Palestinian leadership in Gaza, namely 'Arafat, in order to reach an agreement," Abul Aynain said.

Palestinians run their 11 camps in Lebanon themselves with their own police force under accords signed in Cairo in 1969, which were never replaced they were repealed by parliament in 1987.

Some 350,000 Palestinian refugees are registered in Lebanon, with less than half of them living in camps.

'New War' With Palestinians Feared

NC0112194894 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fears of a new war of the camps between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian fighters have reemerged as the Lebanese Government is preparing to send a final ultimatum to the Palestinians in the refugee camps to hand over their weapons. Measures are expected to be taken for the Lebanese Army's entry into the Palestinian camps. The interior and defense ministers have prepared a report on ways to implement the Lebanese Government's decision of 1991 to impose state authority over all Lebanese territory. But this decision led to the death of 73 Lebanese soldiers and Palestinian fighters in the 1991 battle to remove heavy weapons from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The Palestinians kept their medium-caliber and personal weapons in order to maintain security inside the camps. But this security is threatened today because the weapons are also being used to maintain political balances, some of which are probably linked to the negotiations issue.

Palestinian circles opposed to the Palestinian president are accusing Yasir 'Arafat of instigating the clashes because he feels that the camps have escaped his grasp and of therefore wanting the Lebanese Army to deal a blow to the organizations opposed to him at a time when he is recalling the Fatah members to Gaza to make use of them there. Fatah Movement circles in Lebanon are accusing Syria of trying to make the camps a negotiating card and the first step in the confidence-building measures with the United States and Israel. This step starts with containment of the Palestinian forces, to be followed later by the containment of other forces on Lebanese territory. Palestinian circles fear disarming Fatah while letting the organizations keep their weapons.

[Begin recording of Zayd Wahbah, senior Fatah official in Lebanon] The Lebanese Cabinet is talking about this new decision. I respect this Cabinet and any decision it makes. If Syria is satisfied with this decision—by this I mean Syria and the Palestinian groups in Syria—then we in Fatah have no problem with it. I don't believe that President 'Arafat has any problem with it. But if the brothers in Syria and the Palestinian groups in Syria have nothing to do with it, then I believe that this decision might be rash and might not end in the positive results desired by Lebanon and the Lebanese Government. [end recording]

For its part, the Lebanese Government is stressing that there is full coordination on this issue with Syria, which has 35,000 soldiers in Lebanon.

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Government Not To Consult 'Arafat

NC0112211194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The three-and-a-half-hour Cabinet session ended at 2130 today. It approved a 20 percent wage increase effective 1 January 1995 and decided that this increase should not be less than 50,000 pounds nor exceed 250,000 pounds. It also decided to raise the minimum wage to 250,000 pounds. It approved transport and school fee allowances but attached several conditions to them, the most important of which is that these allowances should not be regarded as a basic wage factor. [passage omitted]

Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr said that the Lebanese Government will not talk to Yasir 'Arafat or anyone else, as it is only concerned with stopping the fighting inside the Palestinian refugee camps, He stressed that the authorities will enter these camps when the time is right.

Army's Entry Into Camps 'Considered'

MM0112161694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Army's Entry Into Palestinian Camps Seriously Considered"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Ministerial sources have cofirmed to AL-HAYAH that entry of the Lebanese security forces and the Lebanese Army into the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon is now seriously, albeit slowly, being considered in Lebanese official circles, and that consultations are under way between Lebanese leaders and senior Syrian officials. The discussions will be completed at high-level meetings between the two countries. Prime Minister al-Hariri yesterday went to Damascus for a meeting with Syrian officials.

According to the same sources, the Lebanese cabinet's decision the day before yesterday, instructing Interior Minister Michel al-Murr and Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul to take the necessary measures to implement the cabinet's decision of 28 March 1991 providing for the dissolution and disarming of the militias, paves the way for a series of gradual steps to be taken by the state to impose its authority on the camps following the violent clashes in 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp near Sidon which started at dawn last Friday [25 November] and continued intermittently until Sunday.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi, commenting on the inter-Palestinian fighting in the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp, said that the existence of statelets within a state and "security islands" where criminal fugitives from Lebanese justice take refuge is unacceptable." [quotation marks as published]

In a speech he made at the beginning of the cabinet meeting held at the republican palace in B'abda the day before yesterday, he said that "the law which applies to the Lebanese must apply to everyone else. The Palestinians should not keep what the Lebanese have been denied. The clashes in the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp demonstrated that, contrary to what they had previously maintained, they still have heavy and medium weapons." He added: "The situation is no longer acceptable, and we would not remain idle if the fighting in the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp is repeated. We would take the necessary stand."

President al-Hirawi said that he held contacts with senior Syrian officials on the situation stressing that "we will not accept that any camp should remain a hotbed of tension or be used as an arena for settling foreign scores. The past situation which we suffered during the war is over and there is no justification for the existence of arms, which is in conflict with the existence of the state."

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the ministers discussed what the president said and they emphatically expressed rejection of what happened in the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp and supported what he said about "the need for intervention by the state if fighting recurred, and that the state would pick the right time for that." [passage omitted]

Visit by Argentine Intelligence Officer Noted

NC0112174894 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] REUTER cites Argentine President Carlos Menem as saying the day before yesterday that a senior Argentine intelligence official has visited Lebanon to look for the mastermind behind the bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires in July, which left approximately 100 dead. [passage omitted]

AL-NAHAR asked a security source about the veracity of Argentine President Menem's statement. He said that Rodrigo Toranzo indeed visited Lebanon for three days during Menem's visit to Syria. He met with Public Security Director Raymond Rofayil, State Security General Director Major General Nabih Farhat, and Lebanese Army intelligence chief Colonel Michel Rahbani. He conveyed to them Argentine President Menem's desire for cooperation between the Lebanese security departments and their Argentine counterparts. The

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source stressed that Toranzo did not specifically mention the bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. When he was asked by certain security officials about the results of the investigation into the incident, he said: "It has been proven that this incident has nothing to do with you."

Toranzo asked the Lebanese officials if it was possible for the Lebanese security departments to cooperate with their Argentine counterparts to verify the identity of any person who may enter Argentina in the future via its northern borders with a Lebanese passport, because Argentina has a problem along these borders, where many individuals sneak into Argentina illegally or by false passports via Portugal. The Lebanese side expressed complete readiness for cooperation.

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Mubarak Arrives, Holds Talks With al-Asad

Foreign Ministers Join Meeting

JN0112143694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1030 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. He was also received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the ministers, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Following the reception ceremony, the president and his great guest left for Tishrin Palace where they held a closed meeting at 1115. The foreign ministers of both countries, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Amr Musa, joined the meeting at 1300. [passage omitted]

Presidents Comment on Issues

JN0112185394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Dec 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed the lack of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, where matters are still the same, and held Israel fully responsible for this situation. President al-Asad said: Despite all the expectations by many countries, none of them has come true. Our preliminary assessments are that Israel is pursuing a path that will not lead to peace. Israel is trying, through its talks with Syria, to get many things that it does not have now. He added: If we are to choose between the current situation and what Israel is demanding, we will choose the current situation rather than the peace that the Israeli negotiators are seeking.

President al-Asad said that no one discussed with Syria the issue of deploying U.S. forces in the Golan. He added that U.S. efforts being exerted for the sake of the peace process are clashing with Israeli obstacles, particularly since the Israelis are not seeking a true peace between equal parties, as he put it.

For his part, President Mubarak stressed Egypt's support for Syria's rights. He said: We will not accept anything other than a comprehensive peace and steady steps toward achieving the rights of all states.

Regarding relations between Egypt and Syria, President al-Asad said: No past event between the two countries will affect Syrian-Egyptian relations. He referred to Egypt's role in the peace process, stressing that Egypt is playing this role in accordance with its reasoning and approach and out of what it believes to be its useful, important, and national duty.

The Egyptian president denied the existence of a crisis between Egypt and the United States despite what is being written about Egypt in the U.S. press. He said: There are press crises. The U.S. press attacks and the Egyptian press retaliates without interference by us. I cannot say there is a crisis. There may be a misunderstanding of some issues. We have our own principle and plans.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold News Conference

JN0112193894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1837 GMT 1 Dec 94

[News conference held by President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents in Damascus on 1 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad: In light of your talks with President Husni Mubarak, how do you assess the current difficulties facing the peace process, and should we expect a breakthrough soon with the forthcoming visit to Damascus by the U.S. secretary of state? Finally, are the Americans playing an effective role or are they still acting as a postman?

[Al-Asad] Of course, I exchanged with President Mubarak several ideas on the subjects which you mentioned, as well as on other subjects. In our discussions it was clear to us that we had many difficulties, not only in the peace process, but also in other aspects of our Arab life. These difficulties require a remedy, and the road to that remedy is long and hard. Despite this, we believe that we should follow this road and cast aside the boredom and despair which may affect us—and these do affect us and you at times—because this is our nation and we have no option but to try to cure ourselves of the diseases from which we suffer.

As regards the peace process, the peace process is still in the same condition I described in my previous meeting [with journalists] in Cairo. The peace process is still the same. Nothing new has happened. You may have been able to deduce from the statements made by the Israelis that things are not progressing. The party responsible for this is Israel. Despite the fact that there were many expectations by many states and by many Arabs concerned with this issue, none of these expectations has materialized.

Our initial assessment is that Israel is following a line that does not open any path to peace. In fact, Israel is trying to get from the peace talks more than it has in its hands now. It is not enough that we suffer from occupation, and from the displacement of a significant number of Arab citizens, Israel is also trying to use the negotiations that were held, and which are being held with the Arabs, including Syria, to obtain more than it has in its hands now. If we have to choose between keeping the current situation as it is or agree to what Israel is

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demanding, then the option I prefer as an Arab citizen and as an Arab official is this current situation and not the peace and the dues of this peace sought by Israeli negotiators.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: Regarding the U.S. role, are the Americans still playing an active role in this delicate phase of the talks? Or are they just acting as a postman?

[Al-Asad] In my view, the Americans are serious about the peace process. They seek and want to achieve peace. However, the obstacle is the Israeli position, which is obstructing even the U.S. efforts. Perhaps if the Americans were asked about this they would say no, it is not Israel [that is obstructing peace efforts]. This is perhaps because they are acting as a mediator and with some sentiments toward Israel. Most probably, they would not say that Israel is the obstruction. However, this is the true state of affairs. As you know, we called for full peace in return for full withdrawal. The equation is easy. It is not complicated and can be understood by any person. However, this is not what they want. They want things outside the boundary of peace. In fact, anyone who closely watches their behavior and demands will feel that the objective is to impose their hegemony, total hegemony, over the Arabs and the Arab region. Therefore, I said that any option is better than this one. The Americans are serious. The Israelis are obstructive. They do not seek a genuine peace between equals. While everyone wants his legitimate interests and the dignity of the people he represents, they want their interests—or rather what they deem to be their interests, be they legitimate or illegitimate. While they want their dignity preserved, they want others' dignity lost. This is the situation that I feel they want to attain.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: On the eve of Warren Christopher's tour of the region, Israel escalated its rhetoric on the peace process. Rabin's declaration that Israel cannot pay the price Syria wants obviously imperils the peace process. What do you think of this statement? Is there a role for Egypt to play in this regard?

[Al-Asad] With the permission of President Mubarak, we must remember, to begin with, that Egypt is an Arab state—indeed the largest Arab state. Egypt, of course, has a role to play, but what kind of role is for Egypt to define; its role must be according to how it perceives its national duty.

[Mubarak] I will say this: Egypt will continue to support Syria's just rights. This is a question of constant principle that will not change.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President al-Asad: How do you explain Israel's hardline approach with Syria and the U.S. pressure on Syria after the progress made on the Jordanian front and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement? With your permission, Mr. President: I would like you to explain this relaxed attitude on the Syrian side as it handles the negotiating process. Is it a matter of tactics, or is it an expression of rejecting unfair terms?

[Al-Asad] It is not a question of a relaxed attitude. It is a matter of conviction in our rights and taking a road leading there. It is a matter of belief in the just cause of a nation. The positions of the Syrian and Israeli negotiators are diametrically opposed. Syria has a relaxed attitude, since whoever has right on his side and is in tune with his people's aspirations must necessarily feel relaxed. The Syrian people and the Government are harmonious. Our people are listening to me now. We are at one as to what is happening; hence the popular support for us. How can our people be otherwise, when they hear that we will do whatever it takes to win over Israeli public opinion? Others tell us as much, but they forget that there is such a thing as public opinion in Syria and in all Arab states. I once told a Western official that you always talk to us about Israel's public opinion and make us feel as if we have no public opinion but a herd of sheep. I think you are way off the mark in this assessment, I told him. Our public opinion supports us as long as we support popular aspirations and just causes. If we do not, the Syrian people will and should be against us.

[Correspondent] Why did they become more intransigent after their agreement with Jordan?

[Al-Asad] In fact, this is how they act and what they aspired to a long time ago. But they express this in one way or another according to developments in the region. Every time they achieved what they believed to be a victory for them, they believed that Syria and the other parties that did not approve of their positions became weaker, which is, of course, untrue. The fall of a branch here and another branch there will not affect the tree and its trunk at all, particularly since its roots are deep in the ground. They build on this illusion and they believe that when some people from Jordan or Palestine march, Syria will follow for fear that it may be alone in the future and will be singled out. There is no doubt that these calculations were not and will not be in our minds or part of our calculations any time in the future.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak: Are you satisfied by some Arab parties hastening to meet Israeli demands from the peace process?

[Mubarak] We will be satisfied when there is a comprehensive peace and when there are steps toward achieving the rights of all states. Otherwise, we will be dissatisfied.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the current conflict in the Palestinian arena will negatively affect the peace process and the comprehensive settlement? The other question is: How do you view the fate of the Damascus Declaration, which was worked out during the Gulf war?

[Al-Asad] In fact, I believe that no peace has occurred to ask whether what has taken place will or will not affect

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the peace process. It is neither peace nor semi-peace. It may be a form of development. I have no specific word to describe the current situation. Yet, this will not change our view of and adherence to peace. We are always seeking what will lead to true peace between completely equal forces and states that adhere to the rights they should achieve. By these efforts, they can achieve comprehensive, just, and strong peace.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what do you have to say on the current dispute, the blood that is being shed now in the Palestinian arena? What is Syria's stand on this dispute?

[Al-Asad] People disagree among themselves. Each party has its course and viewpoint. When any party has a specific conviction—it is the same thing when I speak of myself in Syria—this party should abide by its conviction. I say, I assume that this party should cling to its conviction on the basis that it is completely convinced in what it does and in the course it pursues. This is what I apply to myself. When an individual has his own convictions, this is the basis. If a man believes that blood is a national, moral, and religious necessity, then it is normal that he fulfills this need. This is what I believe. The matter does not have to do with what I say. But, if I have a certain conviction, and of course I have specific convictions about many issues, it is natural that the individual proceeds in line with his convictions. The one who fights, the other who calls for amity, and another who calls for dialogue will not stop. The stands of any of these will not depend on what we say now. This is because there in the occupied territories, in Jordan, and in other places there are people who do not have the same convictions we have. In spite of this, they act in accordance with their conviction.

But, if you mean the intra-Palestinian fighting, then it goes without saying that we hope that any disagreement among the Arabs, all the Arabs without exception, should be settled through dialogue and by avoiding the shedding of blood whenever this is possible.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what about the Damascus Declaration?

[Al-Asad] The Damascus Declaration, I and brother President Mubarak always exchange views and we exchange views with the other brothers as well. Perhaps, there is more desire than in the past to invigorate it in the forthcoming stages. I say perhaps. The situation is better than in the past.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak: How do you assess the results of the recent U.S. elections? What impact will those elections have on the peace process? Do you believe that what is going on in Gaza is the outcome of the lack of revenues or the lack of justice and rights?

[Mubarak] Regarding the U.S. elections, this is an issue that concerns the United States. Whether the Democrats or Republicans win, I do not believe this will affect or obstruct the peace process at all. This is because peace is wanted. It is U.S. policy to see peace prevail in the region.

Regarding what is going on in Gaza, it is a matter of different views on the part of the various Palestinian factions. I do not want to get into the issue of rights or duties, but I can say that the Palestinian factions must hold a dialogue and agree on what line to follow. Otherwise, their peace position will be weakened. As regards the other points, they concern the Palestinians. I do not have sufficient information to tell whether there is or is not justice. This is a matter that does not concern me.

[Correspondent] Your Excellencies the Presidents: Undoubtedly both of you are eager to hold constant meetings and consultations as regards bilateral relations and regional issues. Today's talks, which lasted three hours, were held in the context of this eagerness. This is a question addressed to both of you, Your Excellencies: We are curious to know—what happened during those three hours?

[Mubarak] We meet constantly. We hold talks and exchange views on the bilateral issues to which we give priority. The relationship between Egypt and Syria is an ancient and deep-rooted relationship. Whatever happened between Egypt and Syria in the past will not affect Egyptian-Syrian relations at all. There are bilateral relations and cooperation in the various fields between us. There is economic cooperation, electricity cooperation, and many other fields. Of course, I cannot speak about the details of the three-hour discussions. Otherwise, I would need to speak for two or three hours. However, I can say that we always exchange views and deal with bilateral economic and others issues seriously. This is a matter that is completely in line with what has been agreed upon since we began our continuous meetings.

[Al-Asad] As President Mubarak said, and as you said, the talks lasted three hours. However, we do not want to repeat what we discussed because we would then need three hours. Of course, we discussed a number of bilateral issues that are of interest to Syria and Egypt. You know that all Arab issues are of interest to Syria and Egypt. In general, before we meet, as we noticed in the past meetings and in today's meetings, we find in advance that the views of both sides are close. I recall that after every meeting we emerged with shared views in the interest of Egypt and Syria and in the interest of all our Arab brothers. We will remain so, God willing.

[Correspondent] There have been some negative articles about Egypt in the American press recently. Can we read into this the beginning of a crisis in Egyptian-American relations? How would you explain this anti-Egyptian press?

[Mubarak] I do not what to go into that in any detail. This is between the Egyptian and U.S press. Like the press in other countries, our newspapers are conversant

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with all issues and points of disagreement. It is a question of Egyptian papers responding to anti-Egyptian reportage in the U.S. press, without any prompting from the Egyptian Government. I would not characterize it as a crisis; it may be a misunderstanding of certain points. We have our principles and line and these will not change.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President al-Asad: What specifically are the points of contention between Syria and Israel on the question of peace in the Middle East? We have heard from the Israeli side, but not from Syria. Is it the case, as some American sources contend, that the possibility is being considered of deploying U.S. observers on the Golan? Can the cart go before the horse? We have not heard a Syrian official spell out the points of disagreement.

[Al-Asad] Regarding your question on American observers, this issue was never raised by the Americans. We hear it on the news just as you do. When the subject is raised we will state our opinion. Rather than talk about the points of disagreement regarding the peace process, we would rather ask about the points of agreement. We have agreed on nothing. There are such issues as withdrawal, peace, and security. We have agreed on absolutely nothing on any of these.

I thank my brother President Mubarak for visiting us and for our session today. I believe we had an extremely useful talk, like all the talks we have had. In any case, let me repeat myself: The bonds between us are very close indeed and will remain so, God willing.

Mubarak Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0112170894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held a private meeting in Tishrin Palace at 1115 today. They were joined at 1300 by the foreign ministers of both countries, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Amr Musa. They were later joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Communications Minister Radwan Martini, Electricity Minister Munib Sa'im-al-Dahr, and members of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak.

The talks, interrupted by a luncheon hosted by the president, focused on bilateral issues, cooperation between the two fraternal countries, conditions in the region, and current developments in the peace process, as well as Arab ties. [passage omitted]

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1700 today following his visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad headed those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Sources on Coordination With Egypt

JN0112110094 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Syrian Foreign Ministry sources have said that there is Syrian-Egyptian coordination on the peace process. These sources told 'AKHBAR AL-USBU' that this coordination is progressing day by day with the increased Israeli rejection of a full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

The sources added that Egyptian-Syrian relations continue to develop and that Egypt supports Syria's just demands for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, just as it withdrew from Sinai.

The sources said that Syria's stand will not change and that what is needed is a change in the Israeli stand.

Paper: Israeli Policy 'Cannot Lead to Peace'

JN0212080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, AL-THAWRAH examines the news conference Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak held after their talks yesterday, saying: The news conference was an opportunity to underscore facts anew in the aftermath of a flurry of Israeli statements aimed at sending conflicting messages in all directions. The peace process, as President al-Asad has said, has remained deadlocked. Despite the fact that many expectations regarding the peace process have been nursed, none of these expectations has materialized, because Israel is walking a path that cannot lead to peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: President al-Asad has underscored Syria's pursuit of just and comprehensive peace, saying that Syria is demonstrating a favorable response to all peace efforts. He has also underlined the simple and clear premise of full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. Israel is evading this premise, just as it is evading the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The paper goes on to say: By so doing, President al-Asad has identified the gap spoken of by observers for long. He has also described the impasse Israel has created for the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria will continue to pursue true, just, and comprehensive peace. Such peace must ensure the restoration of all territories and rights. Similarly, it must be grounded in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. Furthermore, such peace must be equitable and balanced. First and foremost, Syria is determined not to

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relent on the restoration of each and every inch of its territory, and other occupied Arab territories, for that matter. It will never abandon its rights and the rights of its nation.

In another commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH states that only just and comprehensive peace, which is grounded in the relevant UN resolutions and the international community's conventions, can bring about security and stability in the region. Only such peace can allow the peoples of the region to put an end to wars and tragedies, and build their future and the future of their generations in peace and tranquility.

The paper notes that the Israeli Government is trying to tamper with this fact, which has been endorsed by the entire world community. It is seeking, by all means, to obliterate and skip over this fact through false and misleading allegations that cannot stand to reason.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: For peace to be viable, it has to be just and comprehensive. For only just and comprehensive peace can end bloodshed, promote the interests of all sides, and safeguard their dignity. Such peace alone can put the region on the track of true peace and stability. As for the logic of force, arrogance, and armament, they cannot bring peace. As a matter of fact, they can only exacerbate and further complicate the situation.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Bosnia-Herzegovina

JN0112145194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Irfan Ljubijankic, foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who handed him a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from Bosnian President Izetbegovic.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the developments in Bosnia.

At the end of the meeting, al-Shar' and Ljubijankic signed an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and Bosnia on the ambassadorial level.

AL-BA'TH Welcomes EU's Revocation of Arms Ban

JN0212090394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the recent decision of the European Union [EU] to lift the arms ban imposed on Syria. The newspaper AL-BA'TH adds: The moral lesson to be learned from this decision is that the arms ban has obstructed the dynamic and positive relations that must bind Europe, which is a traditional power center in the world, to Syria, which has played a historically substantial role in forging and maintaining this relationship thanks to the capabilities it enjoys and the aspirations it has sought to realize.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The arms ban was out of place in the first place. It had no justifications at all. It is hoped that the revocation of the arms ban was a European awakening in terms of identifying the true aggressor, who is placing major obstacles in the way of just and comprehensive peace. This is bound to have positive repercussions on the international and European scenes.

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Afghanistan

Two Parties Absent From Peace Conference

LD0112171594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A source close to the Islamic Party in Afghanistan's peace conference, at the end of the second round of talks in Tehran, has said that the talks are now going on indirectly between the parties' representatives.

The source said only the representatives of Yunes Khales' Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] and Sayyaf [of Ettehad-e Eslami] have not taken part in Tehran conference.

Afghanistan's peace conference is being held on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The peace conference is being participated by 20 fully authorized representatives of Afghan jihad parties.

The Tehran peace conference is aimed at bringing close the viewpoints of the warring sides in Afghanistan and paving the way for establishment of peace and understanding between them.

Antiaircraft Missiles Discovered in Kabul House

LD0112181794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Strella-2-type antiaircraft missiles were discovered and seized today in a place located in ward 11 of Kabul city.

The military correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported that the personnel of the general national security department, discovered and seized today three Strella-2-type antiaircraft missiles that were cleverly hidden in a house located in ward 11 of the city. The case is now under investigation.

India

ISRO Official Arrested for Leaking Information

BK0112160794 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec 1 (AFP)—A top scientist has been arrested for leaking information about India's space rocket programme abroad for sex and money, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday [1 December].

Nambi Narayanan, a deputy director of the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was arrested in the southern city of Thiruvanthapuram on Wednesday on espionage charges, the news agency said.

The suspect was part of ISRO's ambitious plans to indigenously build India's most powerful space rocket.

Narayanan and another detained scientist, D. Sasikumaran, are charged with handing over off data about the programme, enabling unnamed "foreign powers" to develop the technology within three months, police said.

India's federal investigating bureau has been asked to probe the spy-scandal, the most serious in the history of India's space programme.

Some 20 people across the country are suspected to be involved in the spy ring, which allegedly sabotaged the first launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PTI said.

The one-tonne satellite was finally launched in October.

The scandal surfaced in Thiruvanthapuram on October 20 when two women from the Maldives were arrested for overstaying in India, the police said.

Subsequent investigations revealed that 30-year-old Mariam Rasheeda, a junior security officer from the Maldivian capital Male, and another woman, Fouziya Hussain, had contacted the two scientists for information.

The pair allegedly paid the scientists and offered sexual favours in bonus.

Two Sikh Leaders, 300 Others Detained in Punjab

BK0112161494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of the Akali Dal-Badal, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, and Dr. Ratan Singh, MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], were arrested in Amritsar today along with some party activists. Police sources say they were apprehended for breach of Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people in one place] promulgated in the city. Over 300 other party workers were detained earlier in different parts of the state in their attempt to begin the proposed march from Amritsar to Delhi.

Editorial Views 'Deteriorating' Internal Security

BK0112130094 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 28 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Enfeebled Internal Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The deaths of 13 police personnel who died from the land mines laid by the Andhra Naxalites as well as three other deaths are sufficient evidence to prove the deteriorating internal security situation in the country. Although it is generally believed that the internal security is better in the southern states than it is in the northern states, for some time the terrorist activities in the south have been sheadily increasing. Added to the Naxalite violence are the Pakistani agents' terrorizing activities, which are becoming rampant in south India; the southern states are unable to check this growing menace.

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What is surprising in the context is the fact that despite this growing menace of violence, which is enfeebling the internal security, there is no serious discussion in Parliament on the issue. The recent grave concern voiced by the new chief of the Indian Army, General Shakar Rai Chaudhari, deserves special mention. The Indian Government should take notice of what he said and there ought to be a serious discussion in Parliament also. The danger to our internal security arrangements is growing alarmingly only because the external agencies are becoming very active in their nefarious designs to destabilize India. These foreign powers, who want India destabilized, especially in the Kashmir region, are headed by Pakistan and some other Muslim countries. However, unfortunately, the Indian Government is unable to summon sufficient courage to tell them to stop their sinister activities. It is solely because of this that our internal security situation is growing from bad to worse every day. The Central Government is quite aware of the wide-spread network of Pakistani spies who are causing a big danger to our internal security; yet, for all that, the government is not taking adequate measures to tackle this dangerous situation. If the government does not take adequate measures the big states like Uttar Pradesh [UP] and Binar are likely to get seriously infested with communal unrest and terrorism. It is nothing but day-dreaming for our Internal Security Ministry to imagine that all the adequate measures have been taken in north India and the terrorist activities have been kept in check. In fact, there is no check anywhere and in the last few months the Pakistani agents have been having such a field-day all over UP, Binar, and Delhi that it appears as if the whole country is sitting on the mouth of an exploding volcano.

Although our leaders might claim in a variety of public fora that internal security is improving, in reality it is deteriorating very fast. [Words indistinct] situation in Kashmir is totally under control? The terrorists rule the roost in the whole of Kashmir and the Valley is under the total control of the Pakistani agents. These Pakistani agents have become so daringly successful that a large section of the bureaucracy is either having sympathy with them or openly conniving with them. Clearly, the situation in Kashmir is far from being satisfactory. Since Kashmir is very much an integral part of India, all that is happening there reflects adversely on our very feeble or nonexistent internal security system. But what is more shocking is the total inability of either the government or Parliament to face the situation and take due measures. After Kashmir the next big center of the terrorists is the north eastern province. The menace of violence is growing there, posing a serious threat to our internal security, and no one knows how to check this menace at all!

The Pakistani agents have gradually spread throughout the north eastern region and their network is as powerful there as it is in UP and Bihar. The internal security situation in UP has worsened due to the political disparity between the Central and the State Governments. Since the Muslayam Singh government does not appear to be willing to have the rapport with the Central Government that it used to have, the growing dissension between them is being fully exploited by the Pakistani spy agents who are merrily running their dens in UP with unconcealed contempt for our internal security system. While this dangerous situation continues, no one can say that our internal security is alert or the situation in Kashmir is under control. If the lava of terrorism and violence is not so openly visible and is growing underground, it can soon result in a massive blast, exactly in the same way as it has erupted in Andhra Pradesh, where the Naxalites are growing more and more daring every day. Many districts of Andhra pradesh are so deeply afflicted with the Naxalite violence that it is posing a great challenge to our entire law and order system. How daring have the Naxalites become there is evident by their temerity to even kidnap recently a close relative of our prime minister. Had the Government taken some hard and stringent measures to curb this Naxalite violence, the situation would not have degenerated into the sorry pass of the security forces having to bear the assaults of the Naxalite terrorists.

State Voting Said 'By and Large' Peaceful

BK0112131294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Polling in both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka was by and large peaceful today except for a few incidents of violence and group clashes.

In Andhra Pradesh, an estimated 60 percent voters exercised their franchise in the first phase of assembly elections, in which 139 constituencies went for the polls. Two deaths were reported in bomb blasts—one each in Anantpur and Cuddapah Districts. The inspector general of police, law, and order told our Hyderabad correspondent Shujat Ali a short while ago that these two deaths occurred before the commencement of polling. Our correspondent, who visited over 200 polling booths in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad apart from the neighboring Rangareddy District, reports that polling started on a dull note in the first hours and later picked up.

In Karnataka, over 50 percent of the 1.59 crore electorate have cast their votes in the final phase. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that the second and final round of polling began on a dull note, due to chilly weather, but picked up later.

Navy Developing Indigenous Frigate '2001'

BK0112165094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy is developing a new class of indigenous warship by standardizing weapons and equipment. The new warship is tentatively named as Frigate 2001. Talking to newsmen in connection with the Navy week in New Delhi today, the chief of Naval Staff,

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Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, said the country has achieved global competitiveness in building warships. A breakthrough has also been made in designing sea missiles, sensors, and a new type of gun.

Editorial Urges Indigenous Weapons Parts Production

BK0112123394 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 28 Nov 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Spare Parts for Weapons and Equipment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We must produce indigenously the spare parts for our military weapons or our very existence could be threatened. Addressing his first press conference, our new Army chief, General Shankar Rai Chaudhari, emphasized this point. Earlier, the chief of the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal S K Kaul had also laid great emphasis on the indigenous production of spare parts. It is not that these defense chiefs have just realized the importance of indigenization. Our senior defense officials had to realize the growing importance of the indigenous production of these parts after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, which so adversely affected the supply of spare parts that the capacity of our defense forces began to show marked signs of deterioration. It is now three years since the formation of the Russian Federation and the situation is gradually assuming normalcy. Accordingly, large consignments of spare parts have begun to be transported once again. Yet a burnt child always dreads fire. So our military experts have realized the importance of self-dependence in spare parts and have decided to ensure their indigenous production.

In the Air Force this indigenization process began quite a long time ago and it is now able to meet 30 percent of the demand for these parts indigenously. The greatest problem with our defense forces is their importing 90 percent military of war equipment for the Air Force and about 70 percent for the other forces. As it is imperative to import spare parts for this equipment and weaponry only from the country manufacturing them, the practice has continued. However, most of these parts were not of the type which could not be produced indigenously. Indian entrepreneurs are quite capable of producing these parts and meeting the requirement of our defense forces. Yet, thus far, with no initiative from the forces and in the absence of any official directive not much attention was paid to producing the parts indigenously. Now the Indian Defense Ministry has decided to launch its 10 year scheme, to be enforced from next year, called the "National Mission for Self Dependence', to make our forces independent in the production of these spare parts. Although the latest, high grade Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and Arjun main battle tanks are being manufactured in our country, the immediate requirement of our forces is for the indigenous supply of spare parts for the weapons and equipment now being used so that these weapons, etc., may be kept ever ready for use.

Iran

Jannati Friday Prayers on Source of Emulation

LD0212114894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The unifying Friday prayer ceremonies were held today throughout the country with the participation of a large number of people who were mourning the heart-rending demise of the great marja' [source of emulation] of the Shiite world, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah [Mohammad Ali] Araki.

In Tehran, too, those taking part in the Friday prayers were mourning the death of this illustrious marja'. In his Friday prayer sermons, acting Friday imam of Tehran Ayatollah [Ahmad] Jannati, expressing his condolences for the passing of the great source of emulation of the Shiites, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, referred to some of his moral, scholarly, and theological characteristics. He praised the extraordinary humility of Grand Ayatollah Araki, especially toward Imam Khomeyni.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran then affirmed the continuation of the rulings of the dead marja' until a new marja' is selected, and explained the past history and the method of selection of a marja' in the Shiite world. He said: For a long time, learning and piety were regarded as the only qualifications needed by a marja'. However, after the start of Islamic movements and uprisings, especially the prophet-like movement of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, full awareness of political and social issues of the day affecting Muslims is also regarded as an important condition for the marja'.

Referring to the views of Imam Khomeyni, God's blessings be with him, about the importance of a marja's awareness of the issues of the day, Ayatollah Jannati said: Under the present-day conditions, Islam is undergoing a resurgence, and pure Muhammadan Islam, the Islam of struggle against tyranny and the tyrants, and the Islam of the liberation of Muslim nations from the degradation of foreign domination is confronted by American Islam.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed: As a result of the blessings of the struggles and sacrifices of the people, Almighty God will support the revolution. In the same way that God did not foresake this revolution and this system in the issue of leadership after [the death of] Imam [Khomeyni], God's blessings be with him, in the same way He will guide and support our people in the selection of the marja'iyat. However, all of us should know that the marja'iyat today requires the extensive insight, awareness, and vigilance of the people.

In the second sermon, Ayatollah Jannati referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Modarres and referred to some incidents in his life, a life which was

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filled with struggle and jihad against internal despotism and foreign colonialism, and praised the role played by that noble martyr.

Ayatollah Jannati also referred to the floods in various parts of the country and called on the people and relief organizations to help the flood victims with all their strength.

In conclusion, the representative of the vali-ye faqih spoke about Bosnia-Herzegovina, referred to the tragic situation in Bihac, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and called on public opinion in the Islamic countries to protest the inactivity of organizations which claim to be supporters of human rights, especially the United Nations, regarding the genocide of Muslims in Bihac.

Ayatollah Jannati strongly criticized the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf and, addressing the countries of this region, he said: The arrogant powers are seeking their own interests and ambitions in the region and their presence will lead to the insecurity of the Persian Gulf region.

Ayatollah Araki Laid to Rest in Qom

LD0112135294 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Dec 1 IRNA—The body of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki was laid to rest in this holy city after a funeral service attended by multitude of mourning people who had turned out to bid farewell to their revered Marja'-e taglid.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Golpayegani, representative of leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, First Vice-President Hassan Habibi and other prominent religious and politic figures attended the burial service to pay homage to the grand ayatollah.

Crowds of mourners encircled the shrine of Hazrat Masumeh, the sister of Imam Reza (A.S.) where the body of the grand ayatollah was laid to rest.

Araki Supported Khamene'i as 'Supreme Jurisconsult'

LD0112201294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1740 GMT 1 Dec 94

["Special Program" on life of Grand Ayatollah 'Ali Araki]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds—the late Grand Ayatollah [Mohammad 'Ali] Araki gave generous, decisive, unequivocal, and all-embracing support to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the vali-ye faqih [the Supreme Jurisconsult] and the guardian of the cause of the Muslims of the world. Araki considered Khamene'i to be the custodian of the affairs of the Muslims of the world, and endeavored greatly, in all fields, towards the safeguarding of the solidarity and growth of the holy Islamic system.

Today too, there are many outstanding figures in theological schools, particularly the Qom theological school, who continue the path of their pious predecessor. While defending and protecting the scientific sanctuary of the dear Islam, those great men also decisively support the vali-ye faqih of the Age, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and assist the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution in guiding the Islamic ummah. Thus, they guarantee the growth of the beloved Islam and the expansion of the Islamic revolution with further speed and strength under the auspices of the lord of the age, [the 12th hidden Shi'i imam], may God almighty hasten his noble advent.

Clerics Jockey for 'Highest Shiite Authority'

MM0212104194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Kamran Qurrah Daghi in London and Safa Ha'iri in Paris: "Araki's Death Triggers Authority War. Al-Najaf Insists Sistani Has Precedence"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Observers in Tehran said yesterday that the death of Ayatollah Mohammad Araki had ignited the struggle between senior Iranian clerics for the post of highest Shiite authority. Araki died after fighting illness for some weeks.

An Iraqi Shiite figure has told AL-HAYAH that the name of Ayatollah 'Ali Sistani will now naturally come to the fore, although the Iranians would not like that. Sistani is an Iraqi living in al-Najaf. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Mehdi Ha'eri, a prominent Iranian cleric living abroad, said that "the power struggle between the clerics loyal to the regime, the neutrals, and the oppositionists has now reached a climax."

Ha'eri, who is a lecturer on Islamic philosophy at Bochum University in Germany, has stated that, contrary to the prevailing impression, Araki, who lost his hearing and sight some 30 years ago, was never really the highest Shiite authority in the world but that the Iranian authorities gave him that title to pave the way for Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the regime's strongman, to assume the title after his death.

An association of veteran clerics headed by Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani has, for the first time, nominated some senior religious figures for the post of highest authority to succeed Araki. Mahdavi-Kani is known for his opposition to the policies of the late Ayatollah Khomeyni and his successors.

Observers noted the absence of Khamene'i's name from the association's list of candidates. They also maintain that there are other candidates not included in the

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association's list, such as Ayatollah Mehdi Ruhani, who lives in Paris. Every candidate must be supported by at least two prominent clerics.

Those nominated for the post by the association include President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nuri. The association enjoys the support of about 100 deputies in addition to 250,000 clerics. The association has expressed concern at the growing Iranian public hostility toward men of religion.

Informed sources say that all the clerics qualified for the post of highest religious authority in Iran are in detention or under house arrest. Prominent among them are Ayatollah Mohammad Ruhani, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Ruhani, Ayatollah Sadeq Tabataba'i, and Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyn Montazeri, who was once considered to be Khomeyni's successor and who was dismissed by the latter just months before he died. [passage omitted]

Informed sources in Tehran told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Ahmad Khomeyni has met with Ayatollah Montazeri with the approval of Ranfsanjani and Khamene'i to persuade him to accept the post of highest religious authority. The reply of Montazeri, who is under house arrest in Qom, was not immediately known. The same sources say that Montazeri is expected to hold consultations with a number of ulema before setting his terms for accepting the post. Montazeri is known for his severe criticism of the current regime's policies. [passage omitted]

Over 100 Kurdish Refugees Return to Iraq

LD3011215994 Tehran IRNA in English 2144 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pranshahr (West Azarbaijan Prov.), Nov. 30, IRNA—Some 144 more Iraqi Kurdish refugees returned to their homeland via the Haji Omran border.

The group, which numbered 28 families given shelter in Orumieh, Piranshahr and Ziveh, were provided with foodstuff and basic commodities by Iran upon their departure home. The Kurds expressed pleasure with their living conditions in Iran for which they expressed gratitude.

Hundreds of Kurdish families, residing in this northwestern Iranian province have referred to the expatriate affairs department of the governorate office and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) over the past two months to register their names for the return home. Over 40,000 Kurdish refugees are living at motels in the provincial cities of Orumieh, Khoy and Piranshahr at present.

Almost two million Iraqi Kurds had poured into Iran in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war and the persecution of the Iraqi regime. The province also hosts many Kurdish refugees who left Iraq after the signing of the Algiers Accord between Iran and Iraq in 1975.

ICO Envoy Satisfied With Afghan Peace Talks

LD0112182694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Political efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan, begun several days ago in Tehran, continued today. In separate meetings, under the supervision of envoys from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan, representatives from the Afghan Islamic Revolution Council and its opposing faction continued their talks.

[Correspondent] During this round of talks held under the supervision of the ICO secretary general's envoy in two morning and evening sessions, the representatives of the Coordination Council of the Afghan Islamic revolution and its opposing faction discussed their points of view regarding the creation of national understanding in Afghanistan.

The ICO envoy, Mr. Ibrahim Salih-Bakr, expressing his satisfaction over the trend of talks, said the Tehran conference offers a good opportunity for discussing the establishment of a temporary cease-fire. He added: It has been decided for the main topics proposed by the ICO to be discussed at later sessions; issues such as the timing and the manner of establishing a temporary cease-fire, creation of an interim government, carrying out free elections, and convening of the Loya Jerga [Great Council].

UN Security Council's 'Conduct' Criticized

NC0112145394 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Nov 94 p 12

[M. Payedar commentary: "The Result of Trusting the Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The UN Security Council extended its sanctions against Iraq for two months yesterday. [passage omitted on earlier sanctions]

The reasons why the Security Council does not want to or cannot vote to lift the sanctions despite Iraq's bowing down to its wishes stem from several things: First, the nature of the Security Council; second, the pressure being exerted by the reactionary Arabs; and third, the conduct of the Iraqi rulers, who seem to be experts in providing pretexts to the Western powers for exerting pressure on the region and on Iraq itself!

Which of these three factors is more effective in motivating the Security Council to continue its illogical decision to continue these sanctions has elicited much attention. To comprehend this situation, one needs to recall the past record of the Security Council's conduct toward those countries that have been at odds in one way or another with one or some of the permanent members. [passage omitted]

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The sanctions against Iraq can be viewed using three factors:

1. The objectives of the United States, Britain, and Israel regarding Iraq.

2. The interests of Russia and its strategic moves in the region.

3. Iran's situation with regard to these developments.

The United States and Britain have capitalized immensely on the continuation of a crisis in the central and northern Persian Gulf region and, unfortunately, they have found the Security Council to be a useful instrument for their policies. [passage omitted]

Russia is quite disillusioned that its views on Iraq are not being heeded in the Security Council debates. It is seeing its strategic interests in the Persian Gulf being jeopardized and, due to its inability to convince the Security Council to lift the sanctions, it is in a vulnerable position.

There is no doubt that Russia's diplomacy and the influence of [Foreign Minister] Kozyrev's discussions in convincing Iraq to accept the borders of Kuwait played a major role along with the Security Council. Now Moscow feels that neither it nor Iraq have reaped the necessary rewards, and for this reason public confidence in Russia has waned. [passage omitted]

Iran has bitter experiences regarding the stances of the Security Council, especially in its two-faced policy during the aggression by the Ba'thist regime against Iran and later against Kuwait, which are quite obvious. Naturally, an analysis of the Security Council's conduct and actions is nothing new as regards Iran.

However, the Security Council's recent actions have highlighted one point: that obedience to the wishes of the West (or the Security Council!) does not necessarily mean an end to the West's hostilities. In fact, it has the opposite effect! This should serve as a lesson to all.

One may add that the Islamic Republic of Iran should not view Iraq from the vantage point of the Security Council's stance, as this would not benefit us, the region, and the Iraqi people.

Our stance should be based on support of the Iraqi people, whose fate is unclear in this dangerous roulette. They are a suffering nation with no path on which to return or forge ahead. It would not be difficult to do some serious thinking about the Iraqi nation and the path of fostering greater closeness to them should be pursued seriously.

Accusations of Minority Rights Abuse Rejected

LD0112094594 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Dec 1, IRNA—An Iranian U.N. representative here Wednesday [30 November] stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran strictly observes the principles of tolerance and protection of the rights of the religious minorities.

The religious minorities in Iran, however few, bear fair representations in the Iranian parliament in which their deputies hold the same respect, credibility, power and dignity as their Muslim counterparts do.

"The Iranian constitution explicitly protects the rights of religious minorities to freely practice their religion", the envoy said adding that on certain issues of personal affairs in Iranian court upon religion, members of religious minorities can follow the rules and principles of their own religion.

As for allegations raised by certain countries on practice of torture in Iran the representative said, "as far as the accusation of torture in Iran is concerned it must be unequivocally reiterated that under the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all forms of torture including physical, mental, even degrading treatment of arrested, or accused persons and prisoners are unlawful".

Additionally, he said, in accordance with the Iranian criminal code law enforcement agents or other criminal justice practitioners who violate that constitutional principle are prosecuted and may be punished by service suspension or imprisonment.

He categoricaly denied allegations regarding the involvement of Iran in Iraq. "The situation of people residing in southern Iraq and their suffering resulting from continued suppression need no further elaboration. At the same time we regret to note that Iraq continues to provide logistic, financial, intelligence and military supports to a terrorist group based in Iraq to attack civilian targets in Iran such as the bombing of Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad", he stressed.

He ruled out observations made by a few delegations about the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran for not being objective and stresed that such accusations rather stemmed from short-sighted political considerations.

Cases of human rights violations in countries which blame others for the same, are indeed not infrequent, he said adding that, several reports of the various international and non-governmental organizations categorically document routine cases of torture, mistreatment of prisoners, police-brutality and outright discrimination in adjudication of justice based on race and ethnic background in many Western countries including in the U.S., the United Kingdom and Canada.

Failure to fulfill the international commitments to protect the rights of the refugees in the European states is quite disconcerting, the representative noted.

"Legalization of homosexuality even for under age people, in Ireland, breaching the rights and freedoms of

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Muslim minorities in Europe, constitute grave violations of basic human rights and has caused great outrage among the Islamic states who expressed their deep concern over the issue in the final communique of the coordinating meeting of the foreign ministers of the ICO on October 3, 1994," he underlined.

The envoy concluded by saying, "another example of ultimate disregard for human rights, religious and cultural values of over one billion Muslims is the insensitive statements made by the delegations of Norway and Sweden which added insult to the injury".

'Repression' Said Reason for Few Publications

NC0112160494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Article from ETTEHAD-E KAR magazine, organ of Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran: "Publication, Dissemination of Newspapers in Cleric-Ridden Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an assessment of press officials, the overall circulation of the more widely circulated newspapers of Iran is only about 1 million and the total circulation of newspapers daily is an average of 1.5 million daily. Accordingly, for every 1,000 Iranians, only 25 to 30 newspapers are being published and disseminated daily, even in the best possible conditions.

According to official figures, so far licenses for the publication of nearly 600 newspapers have been issued by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. These figures, which include all magazines and occasional publications, are extremely low in comparison with the needs of a 60-million strong population in Iran and most other and similar societies. However, according to a survey of the current situation of the country's press, one should see how many of these licensed publications are being disseminated and in what manner, how many can continue their publication, what is the composition of these publications, what is the level of their circulation, and who are their readers or buyers.

As has been deduced from an assessment of Iran's rotational publications by experts of the National Library, at the end of 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] the number of all the publications being circulated was approximately 500 newspapers and magazines. In 1372, which coincided with the implementation of the scheme for a uniform parity rate of foreign exchange and its imminent repercussions on the immense rise in the costs of these publications, more than 50 publications were forced to close down.

In the interim, some publications were closed down for political reasons or other considerations by the government departments. Thus, it can be concluded that the total number of newspapers, magazines, and newsletters all over the country in the beginning of the current [Iranian] year stands between 400 and 450.

Who are the groups or organizations that publish and disseminate these publications? At first glance, the question that comes to mind is: In view of the policy of suffocation and repression currently being implemented by the Islamic Republic regime and the intense restrictions imposed by it in all cultural, political, and social fields, how are these publications compiled and disseminated?

A more intensive appraisal of those who compile these publications clearly reveals that a large part of them are published by the government's departments and institutions and only a limited number are the result of the efforts and perseverance of a group of independent and non-aligned journalists who are representative of cultural and political resistance to the ruling Islamic regime.

At present, each of the ministries—in addition to in-house bulletins and publications—also disseminate one or two general publications in the form of magazines or topical newsletters. Companies, banks, and the major government organizations—such as those in the areas of the oil, aviation, railroad, steel, and free trade zones—publish at least one periodical from time to time.

The regime's Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also have their own publications. The Islamic Propagation Organization and the propagation office of the Qom theological school disseminate numerous magazines. The Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificing Devotees [war disabled] has about four publications, and all others such as the Martyrs' Foundation, the 15 Khordad, Astan-e Qods [Mashhad shrine], and so on also have rotational publications, which are either government or government-affiliated and began in the past two or three years.

In addition, the larger press houses of the country that had been seized after the Revolution and placed under the supervision of the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult] and that follow the government's policies and propaganda program each have a number of general publications in hand. The KEYHAN institute publishes and disseminates three daily newspapers, six weeklies, and seven monthly publications with the extensive resources provided to it.

The ETTELA'AT institute also has 10 different publications. Because of the relative popularity of the independent and non-aligned publications in recent years, a group of Islamic Republic circles have decided to use their facilities, privileges, and government position to forge ahead with special economic and political objectives of their respective factions. Thus, they seek to ensure distinctive group interests by creating a special base among certain sections of society using the arena of publications where they wield their pens to achieve these objectives. On the basis of their position or influence in the administrative apparatus, they easily attain licenses for publications and set up offices with their private or government resources and embark on the publication of newspapers and periodicals.

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A large part of these statistics pertain to these individuals and government elements, which include SALAM, the license holder of which is Kho'iniha; Mohtashami's BAYAN; Mohammad Mohsen Sazgara's A'INEH-YE EQTESAD; Mohammad Taqi Banki's NEGAH-E NOW; Tehran mayor Karbaschi's HAMSHAHRI; Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i's JAHAN-E ESLAM; and similar other publications. [passage omitted]

The indicator specified by the United Nations nearly 10 years ago for developing countries was an average of 100 newspapers for every 1,000 people. The circulation of newspapers in Iran is at a very low level, even in comparison with neighboring countries such as Turkey and Pakistan. In Turkey, the circulation of one widely circulated newspaper is nearly 1 million copies. According to a newspaper editor, Turkmenistan with a population of 4 million has two newspapers with a circulation of 400,000 while Khorasan province with 6 million people has a circulation of less than 100,000 copies for its newspapers.

The backwardness of our country in this matter is highlighted when we compare it to a country such as Japan. According to existing statistics, for every 1,000 Japanese 580 newspapers are published and distributed and the total circulation of newspapers in that country exceeds 72 million copies.

Even though we do not have precise statistics of publications, an approximate estimate indicates that the most circulated newspapers print 250,000 to 300,000 copies. HAMSHAHRI, which has been published for nearly a year and a half, announced recently that its circulation had reached the 285,000 mark.

The copies of relatively well-circulated weeklies are 80,000 to 100,000. Most of the magazines and periodicals affiliated with government departments have a circulation of 5,000, and this number is sold with much difficulty.

In general, the very low level of publications in our society stems from various factors that would be difficult to discuss at length and will have to be done at another opportunity. However, this fact is so conspicuous in this 60-million strong society, with a 150-year history of press activity, that the powers that be and the government officials have been forced to admit it, even though they attribute this state of affairs to vague conditions, such as the lack of reading habits or the inability to recognize the importance of publications in our society.

Suffice it to say that the circulation of publications has a direct relation to their quality and contents. In conditions of suffocation and religious despotism, the lack of freedom of expression, the imposition of repression and censorship by various means, newspapers and magazines cannot cater to the basic needs of the people for news and information or express their desires. In such circumstances, the vast majority of the people refrain from purchasing and reading newspapers managed by the government echelons that they do not trust.

This lack of trust by the people is the most conspicuous and major factor for the low circulation of publications in our society, which in turn results in low income for them and makes journalistic activity an uneconomic venture. This situation makes the continuation of the work of such institutions dependent on direct assistance, such as subsidies and loans, indirectly making them government mouthpieces and putting them further under government control.

This greater dependence on and subservience to the government apparatus on the part of the publications alienates the readers even more and the vicious circle continues.

Pakistan

Paper Reviews India's Intelligence Services

BK0212033994 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 94 supplement II

[From "Defence Panorama" section]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Intelligence Bureau (IB) of the Ministry of Home Affairs is India's largest intelligence organisation, and is responsible for counter-espionage, countersubversion and domestic political intelligence operations. The IB and its subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (at, for example, Shillong and Calcutta) maintain SIGINT [signals intelligence] stations for monitoring clandestine transmissions. There is, for example, a major IB station south of Delhi. The IB reportedly accounts for some 15 per cent of Indian SIGINT activity.

(v) The Border Security Force (BSF)

The Border Security Force (BSF) of the Ministry of Home Affairs is quasi-military organisation responsible for security intelligence activities in particular border areas, and most particularly along the Pakistani border and in the southern areas of India across from Sri Lanka.

The BSF reportedly accounts for some 20 per cent of Indian SIGINT activity.

(vi) The Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (IDRO): The Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (IDRO) is currently constructing three SIGINT stations to collect Chinese telemetry intelligence (TELINT) associated with ballistic missile and other advanced weapon tests. These stations are located near Almora, on Sitoli Ridge on the northern side of Naini Tal in the Himalayas; at Breilly, some 150 km south of Almora, and near Darjelling in the northeast (and just 400 km southwest of Llasa in Tibet). (The Almora/Naini Tal site is only 100 km south of Nanda

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Devi and Nanda Kot, where the CIA maintained facilities for collecting TELINT from Chinese missiles and nuclear weapons tests in 1965-68. [no closing parentheses as published]

The IDRO presumably has the management and operational responsibility for these TELINT station because of its generally acknowledged expertise in missile and advanced weapons development, as well as its experience in the design and operation of advanced telemetry equipment in its own test programme.

(vii) The Indian Air Force (IAF): The Indian Air Force (IAF) maintains an extensive array of airborne SIGINT/ELINT/EW [signals intelligence/electronic intelligence/electronic warfare] capabilities from strategic SIGINT collection system to individual unit electronic self-protection devices.

With respect to strategic SIGINT collection the Air Force cooperates closely with ARC [Aviation Research Center]. For example, the airborne system operated by the ARC—the Boeing 707s, Canberras, Learjets, Gulfstreams, An-12, Cub Bs, An-32s and 1176s—fly with IAF colours and are generally crewed by IAF officers on deputation to the ARC, (for example, the ARCs An-12 Cub B which crashed at Cuttack (Charbatia) in March 1988 had three IAF flying crew and six ARC technicians.

In addition to the score of its aircraft used by the ARC, the IAF has several other types of aircraft which is used for strategic and operational SIGINT EW activities. An EW squadron (No 35) operates specially equipped Canberra aircraft, it also has four HS-748 EW aircraft. The IAF also has a reconnaissance squadron equipped with six MiG 25R (Foxbat B) aircraft, which are primarily utilised for PHOTINT [airborne intelligence] missions but which do have some secondary ELINT capabilities.

(viii) The Indian Navy: The Indian Navy maintains a wide range of airborne, surface and submarine ELINT and ESM [electronic warfare support measures] collection capabilities—including Russian, US, British, West German, Italian and indigenously designed systems.

The Navy operates more than 20 marine patrol aircraft, equipped with a variety of ELINT and ESM systems. These include some eleven Dornier Do-228s, operated by No 750 Squadron at Daman, north of Bombay, eight Tu-142M Bear Fs, the first of which were delivered by the Soviet Union in April, 1988, and initially operated by No 312 Squadron at Dabolim in Goa, but recently moved to a newly-opened base at Arakkonam, near Madras and five IL-38 Mays operated by No. 315 Squadron at Dabolim. The Indian Navy also operates some 30 Sea King Mark 42B ASW helicopters, which are equipped with the Hermes ESM suite acquired from the UK in the late 1980s.

The Navy's submarines and major surface combatants are also well-equipped with ELINT/ESM systems. For example the eight Sindhughosh (Kilo) class submarines acquired from the Soviet Union in 1986-89 are equipped with a HF/VHF intercept array, a Quad Loop DF system, and a Squid Head (a successor to the Stop Light), ESM system. The three Shishumar (West German 209/1500) class submarines, commissioned in 1986-91 are equipped with the phonix LL ESM system Inc, in Sunnyvale California, which provides automatic identification and bearing of intercepted radar emissions in the frequency range of 2-18 GHZ.

The five Rajput (Soviet Kashin) class destroyers are equipped with two Watch Dog ELINT/ESM systems. The three Godvari-class frigates are equipped with the Italian Selenia INS-3 ESM system, which covers the 1-18 GHZ band, its RQN-3 sub-system provides automatic detection analysis, and DF-tracking of radar emitters operating in this band. The six Nilgiri (British Leander) class frigates are equipped with Racal UA 8/9 radar intercept systems and Telefunken Telegon FH5-DF systems. The three Talwar (British Whitby) and Beas (British Leopard)-class frigates carry Telefunken Telegon IV DF systems. And the new Khukri-class corvettes, of which some 16 are being built in Bombay and Calcutta, are equipped with Ajanta P radar intercept systems produced by Bharat Electronics Ltd in Bangalore.

(ix) The Indian Army: The Indian Army maintains a very extensive SIGINT and EW capability at strategic, operational and tactical levels. Army SIGINT units operate through a dual structure for both tasking and reporting purposes, with the activity coordinated at the Army Command level. (There are five geographical Commands—Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Central). On the one hand they operate as collection stations for the Signal Intelligence Directorate of the Military Intelligence Directorate, this is so particularly in the case with respect to SIGINT operations at the Corps level. On the other hand, they also function as integral SIGINT and EW elements of military formations, as well as supporting special military deployment such as Kashmir, or with the Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri-Lanka.

The bulk of the Army's SIGINT equipment at the tactical level was acquired from the Soviet Union in the 1970s. This includes both fixed HF and VHF/DF systems and highly specialised truck-mounted DF and monitoring equipment. Some equipment is indigenously designed and produced, such as HF DF systems designed by the Defence Electronic Research Laboratory (DERL) in Hyderabad.

In 1987, the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) began production under licence of Racal COMIT [communications intelligence] and EW equipment for the Indian Army and other 'Indian Government agencies'. The equipment includes the Racal RA 1792 LF/HF radio communication monitoring receiver for surveillance of the 100 kHz to 30 MHz frequency band, and the Racal RA 1795 VHF/UHF radio communication receiver for monitoring the 20 to 1,000 MHz band. Since

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1990 India has also been importing large quantities of electronic warfare and 'passive intelligence' equipment from the US. In 1990-91 these imports reportedly amounted to some US $1000 m. According to one account, India realised during the Gulf War not only that EW was a powerful 'force multiplier' but also US EW systems were superior to the Soviet designed equipment which it acquired during the 1970s and 1980s.

Paper Says India Capable of Making 60 Atom Bombs

BK0212121994 Lahore JANG in Urdu 1 Dec 94 p 3

[Editorial: "India's Nuclear Program—Frightening Revelations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, India has a stockpile of 300 kg of plutonium, which can be used to manufacture 60 atom bombs, and it is adding 45 kg to this stock every year. India's aggressive nuclear ambitions are not hidden from anyone. India has been executing its plans for a long time. Apparently, New Delhi points to the possession of nuclear weapons by other global powers to justify its own nuclear program, but sensible observers are fully aware of India's secret ambitions. They understand that India's only target is Pakistan. It was India that laid the foundation for nuclear arms production in this region by detonating a nuclear device. Pakistan started its peaceful nuclear program as a countermeasure to meet India's aggressive designs, which have been clearly exposed. Now that Russia and the United States are working for disarmament and Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and North Korea have abandoned their plans to manufacture and stockpile nuclear weapons, why is India busy stockpiling plutonium? If its assertion that the global nuclear arms race forced it to detonate a nuclear device is correct, then, logically, it should now forgo its nuclear program, because the current global trend is toward disarmament. However, surprisingly, instead of working for disarmament, India is implementing its nuclear program at a rapid pace and also developing nuclear missiles to fulfill its ambition of becoming the largest nuclear power in Asia. In spite of this, the United States has been turning a blind eye to India's nuclear program to serve its own trade and economic interests. This is very alarming, because the situation in South Asia has become so tense and dangerous due to the Kashmir dispute that any irresponsible incident can trigger the world's first nuclear war, which will bring about catastrophic consequences. Therefore, it is obligatory on the part of the United States and other countries to take steps to check and control India's nuclear program.

Editorial Criticizes Bhutto on Nuclear Issue

BK0212112594 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 1 Dec 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Deterrent and the Prime Minister's Statements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan does possess parts of a nuclear bomb, but no nuclear weapons. If the West fails to differentiate between the parts and nuclear weapons, then it will strengthen the hands of the extremists in Pakistan who plead for manufacturing the weapon.

Pakistan's nuclear program is a fact that no sane person can deny. The Pakistani nation, despite having been disappointed in all respects, considers the country's nuclear program a guarantor for its survival. In an interview a few days ago, the prime minister acknowledged that 90 percent of Pakistanis are in favor of a nuclear detonation. We do not know who the remaining 10 percent are. They must be the people who are influenced by the United States, the West, and India and are so amenable that they consider the Wagah border post between India and Pakistan as the Berlin Wall and do not feel bad about turning Pakistan into a country like Nepal or Bhutan in exchange for a U.S. defense umbrella.

The prime minister has once again expressed her view on the nuclear program. In a sense, she has confirmed Nawaz Sharif's statement, after which the government spokesmen and officials charged Sharif of treason, sedition, and betrayal of the motherland. Instead of reflecting the national aspirations, Bhutto in her statement has tried to convince the United States and Europe that despite the desire of the people in Pakistan, the present government is not advancing its nuclear program as demanded by the United States and desired by the nuclear powers. Therefore, they should pay special attention to her, otherwise extremists in the country would take up the issue. The reality, however, is that no government in Pakistan has ever been in a position to compromise on the nuclear issue, nor could it make a decision against the wishes and feelings of the 90 percent of its population because Pakistan is facing a treacherous enemy like India, and it is difficult to deal with it using only conventional weapons.

Pakistan has three times been the victim of Indian aggression, and India is again preparing to carry out aggression. If there has been no war between Pakistan and India since 1971, it is because of our nuclear program. Given this situation, it is the duty of the prime minister to convince the United States and the West not to behave with Pakistan in a prejudicial manner and view the nuclear programs of Pakistan and India in the same perspective. To create an impression in the United States and Europe that the prime minister is resisting the pressure of 90 percent of Pakistanis and that if she is not helped, then the government and politics of Pakistan will

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be taken over by extremists, is not an appropriate policy. The prime minister should reflect the aspirations and desires of her people and should think and act in terms of her national interests.

Official Welcomes Prisoner Exchange With Tajikistan

BK3011161094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has welcomed the exchange of prisoners between the Tajik Government and the opposition in the first meeting of the joint commission under the framework of the recently concluded protocol in Islamabad.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that Pakistan worked actively for the success of the Islamabad talks and it was the personal intervention of the Pakistani foreign minister which prevented the breakdown of the negotiations on three occasions. The spokesman said Pakistan is satisfied that the agreement is being implemented.

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